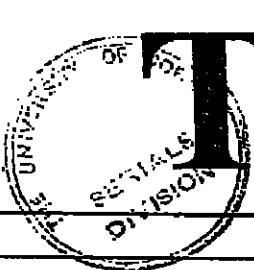


by rain



Call for 'wider Europe'

Thatcher sets out vision of grand alliance

By Andrew McEwen, Diplomatic Editor

MRS Margaret Thatcher last night called for the creation of a "great alliance for democracy", linking eastern and western Europe and tied to North America.

But in a speech in Cambridge, she also said it was essential to European security that the United States, Britain and France should continue to have "sizeable forces" in Germany and that Nato should retain nuclear weapons based there.

Her emphasis on foreign forces and nuclear weapons is unlikely to have pleased Chancellor Helmut Kohl of West Germany, who attended a dinner with her to mark the 40th anniversary of the annual Königswinter conference on Anglo-German friendship.

In his own speech, he agreed with her on most aspects of European security but said nothing about retaining American, British, or French forces or nuclear weapons.

The two speeches underlined the sharp differences over the pace of progress towards greater European unity, which Herr Kohl linked to the question of German reunification.

In a clear reference to Mrs Thatcher, he said: "Those who want a united Germany to be firmly integrated into European structures must logically support further progress in European unification."

The Prime Minister has strongly opposed proposals by M Jacques Delors, president

of the European Commission, for economic and monetary union; but Herr Kohl called for "constructive, intensive and swift efforts" on the issue at an inter-governmental conference later this year.

Herr Kohl also ignored Mrs Thatcher's strong objections to moves that could lead to a united states of Europe. He said he would propose at an EC summit in Dublin next month that a second inter-governmental conference should be held this year to speed up political union.

In her speech, Mrs Thatcher proposed that the "Helsinki accords, which helped to break down differences between eastern and western Europe, should be greatly extended. Every participating country would make a commitment to free elections, the rule of law, and a range of freedoms including the right to own private property."

Adapting a phrase once used by President Gorbachev, she said the new alliance would "stretch from the Atlantic to the Urals and beyond." The Soviet President used it to describe the scope of cuts in conventional forces in Europe, which may be achieved through a treaty later this year. Mrs Thatcher extended its meaning to describe a wider Europe linked by increasingly shared values.

The forum for the changes would be the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe (CSCE), which links the United States and Canada with every country in Europe except Albania. It is to hold a special conference later this year to discuss the changes in eastern Europe and the reunification of Germany.

Mrs Thatcher said the summit could take "a major step towards the creation of a great alliance for democracy, which would stretch from the Atlantic to the Urals and beyond."

She proposed that the CSCE agreements should be extended to include a provision setting out the conditions to be fulfilled for elections to be considered truly free.

Another provision would strengthen the rule of law. The 35 nations would also agree to extend political consultations with meetings of foreign ministers twice a year and a procedure for extraordinary sessions in times of crisis. The CSCE could also be given a conciliation role.

"The summit should add to the Helsinki principles the

right to private property, the freedom to produce, buy and sell without undue government interference. These rights are fundamental to a free and prosperous society."

On European security, she set out five guiding principles: "The Americans must not go home. Nor must Britain retreat from the Continent. The security interests of all concerned must be taken into account. No one must feel threatened, humiliated or resentful."

"Above all, we must ensure that a Germany rooted in Nato and the European community, content within its borders, and democratic in its government, strengthens the community and stability of Europe as a whole."

She said that would involve three essential elements: a united Germany should be part of Nato; American and other forces should remain in Germany, although it was hoped their numbers could be reduced; and Nato should continue to have nuclear weapons based in Germany.

She said that if the conventional forces in Europe talks in Vienna proved successful, there would be a significant reduction in the threat facing Europe and conventional forces could be cut. If eventually the Soviet Union withdrew its forces completely from eastern Europe, the cuts could go even further.

"But these reductions must be carried out in a co-ordinated and disciplined way in Nato, not in some wild scramble," she said.

She envisaged some reduction in the level of forces in Germany, but added that Britain would need to continue to keep "sizeable forces" stationed there, as would the United States and France.

Herr Kohl also emphasized the need for a United Germany to remain "embedded in the western alliance."

"Secession from Nato must not be the price for German unity. Such a policy is not acceptable to me," he said.

He also emphasized the need for a continuing security link between Europe and North America, but said that should lead to deeper co-operation between the European community and the United States on foreign policy, and did not mention foreign troops or nuclear weapons.

Kohl ascendancy, page 10
Kohl speech, page 20

GMC says kidneys sold for transplants

By John Young

TWO surgeons and a physician took part in the sale of kidneys for transplant operations, the professional conduct committee of the General Medical Council decided yesterday.

Sir Robert Kilpatrick, committee chairman, said that it found allegations proven against Mr Michael Bewick, a transplant surgeon, Mr Michael Joyce, a urologist, and Dr Raymond Crockett, a Harley Street specialist.

After the committee's longest and most expensive hearing to date, it has still to decide whether the facts as proven constitute serious professional

misconduct and is unlikely to reach a verdict until the middle of next week.

The committee found Dr Crockett had arranged a number of operations during 1988 for the removal of kidneys for transplant operations and knew that none of the donors was related to the recipient.

Both Mr Joyce and Mr Bewick were found to have carried out a number of transplants without establishing whether the donors had given full consent.

The case continues today.

Hearing report, page 3



Safe seats: A police dog sniffing for bombs in Cheltenham Town Hall before today's visit by Mrs Thatcher and Mr Kenneth Baker when they will address the Conservative Central Council

Report, page 2

Petrol breaks the £2 barrier

By Kevin Eason, Motoring Correspondent

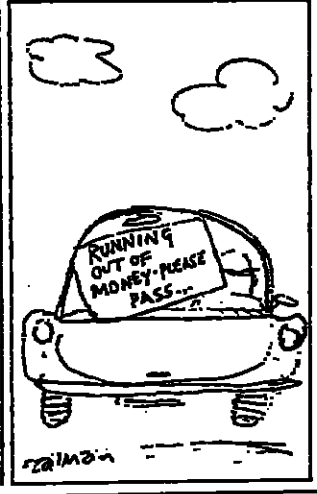
PETROL prices will move to their highest level for five years from Monday at more than £2 a gallon.

It is the second rise in less than two weeks and will add pressure to the Government's inflation worries.

Shell, a market leader, announced yesterday it will increase the price of a gallon of both four-star and unleaded by 5.4p, putting a total of more than 16p on the cost of a gallon since the Budget. Other companies are expected to follow suit.

The AA said last night: "We said at the time of the Budget that motorists faced another increase in their annual bill of £30. This adds another £15."

Mr Nigel Griffiths, Labour spokesman on consumer affairs, said the increase was a bleak start to the 1990s for the motorist and urged Shell to justify the rise. Shell blamed the increases on leaping oil prices in the Rotterdam oil market.



Police agree TV names

By Craig Seton, Robin Oakley and Stewart Tendler

THE four men named in the Granada Television programme as the alleged organizers of the Birmingham pub bombings were "very likely" to have been involved, Mr Geoffrey Dear, Chief Constable of the West Midlands, said yesterday. But he said there was no hard evidence.

Mr Dear insisted, however, that the six men who were convicted were the bomb layers and bomb planters. He said: "There were figures above them who escaped. We have always maintained that the Birmingham Six were not the only ones involved."

Mr Dear repudiated any suggestion that the force had known the identity of the four organizers of the 1974 atrocity, in which 21 people died,

and had done nothing. The Home Office issued a statement yesterday, saying that no new evidence had been put forward in the programme.

The Granada programme, named *Who Bombed Birmingham?*, named Michael Christopher Anthony Hayes as an alleged bomb planter. Seamus McLoughlin, allegedly the planner, known as "Belfast Jimmy"; Michael Murray, said to have telephoned the warning; and James Francis Gavin, described as the bomb maker, were also named.

Mr Dear said that it was being alleged that the six men convicted of the bombings were innocent and the other four or five were really the bombers and planters. He condemned the programme as

shot through with half-truths, misleading and selective.

He said the named men were known to the police and extensively questioned. "There was no firm evidence against them, no matter how hard we tried."

He also referred to a West Midlands Special Branch document, a feature of the programme, and said it had been prepared in November 1975, after the trial. "It is of no significance whatever."

In the Commons yesterday, the Prime Minister said the broadcasting of the names amounted to "trial by television". The rule of law would be ended if trial by television was ever to take over.

Parliament, page 6

Moscow relents over deserters

From Michael Binyon, Moscow

TENSION over Lithuania eased slightly yesterday with the announcement here that army deserters would not be punished if they rejoined their units. Some were reported already to have done so.

After President Gorbachev's meeting with Senator Edward Kennedy, senior Western diplomats also expressed cautious optimism that Moscow was seeking a way to begin negotiations, despite strong pressure for a crackdown from Soviet military leaders.

In the Ukraine, Rukh, the nationalist popular front, expressed strong support for Lithuania's independence and called for rallies throughout the Ukraine tomorrow. The Ukrainian Communist Party denounced these calls as provocative and local govern-

ment officials were ordered to prevent the rallies.

In Estonia, where the new parliament began its first session, para-military self-defence units were being formed to protect the borders of a future independent state.

The announcement of an amnesty for Lithuanian deserters was accompanied by a warning from the Soviet Defence Ministry that anyone who continued to break the law would be tracked down and prosecuted.

Tass said that there were more than 250 deserters in Lithuania. Fifty-one had already rejoined their units and army representatives had visited the parents of 97 deserters to get them to persuade their sons to go back.

Shooting claims, page 8

Customs uncover second Iraqi 'plot'

By Michael Evans, Philip Webster and Stewart Tendler

AS THREE people charged in connection with the nuclear bomb trigger case appeared in court yesterday, Customs disclosed they had uncovered a second alleged plot to smuggle prohibited naval explosive equipment to Iraq.

The man behind the second plot was said to be Mr Omar Laif, who faces deportation for allegedly masterminding the aborted smuggling of 40 triggers for nuclear bombs on an Iraqi Airways flight from Heathrow.

In San Diego, a US federal district court opened a sealed indictment yesterday and charged five individuals and two British companies on five counts of conspiring to export military electrical components to Iraq.

At Uxbridge two of three accused in the nuclear trigger case, Mr Toufic Fouad Amyuni, aged 37, of Fawcett Street, west London, and Mr Ali Ashour Dagher, aged 49, of Drake Close, Esher, Surrey, both businessmen, were remanded in custody. Mrs Jeanine Celestine Speckman, an export executive, aged 41, of Bates Walk, Addlestone, Surrey, was given bail.

The three were charged that between March 20 and March 28 together at Heathrow Airport and elsewhere in the United Kingdom they were unlawfully concerned in the attempted export of 40 electrical capacitors.

In the second, unrelated, Customs operation it was disclosed that during raids on business premises in Edinburgh and Deeside in Cheshire, paperwork was found which referred to past sales of military goods to the Iraqi Navy. The equipment, believed to be naval mine detonators, had been flown out of Britain on an Iraqi Airways flight. "Nothing has been seized in this operation," one source said. "The paperwork shows that the export of this naval equipment has already taken place."

The Iraqis are known to want acoustic detonators for the development of advanced sea mines. They have been trying for many years to obtain sea-mine technology, according to defence sources.

Customs said there were no imminent arrests. But two men wanted for questioning by Customs were said to be on Continued on page 20, col 3

Atomic ambitions, page 9

INSIDE

Gower rejoins England team

David Gower, the former England cricket captain who has been covering the team's tour of the West Indies for *The Times*, has unexpectedly been asked to play for the team against Barbados tomorrow.

The recall of Gower comes after the discovery that Graham Gooch, who took over from him as captain at the end of last summer, had broken his hand in an earlier game. Page 40

Crime survey

The broad crime rate in England and Wales is lower than in North America and many West European nations and there are fewer violent offences, according to a telephone survey of 2,000 people in 24 countries. Page 4

Ilea farewell

The Inner London Education Authority, once a body ruling 1,037 schools and 282,145 pupils in central London, will spend its last working day today. There are plans to turn its headquarters on the South Bank into a hotel. Page 5

Hemingway find

A professor of English who deciphered a handwritten manuscript criss-crossed with revisions in a Boston, Massachusetts, library claims to have found Ernest Hemingway's last short story. Page 7

Speedy cheques

The Government plans to cut the time taken to cash a cheque by more than a day, saving the bank system millions of pounds. The proposal is in a White Paper. Page 21

BT dismissals

British Telecom announced a review which will lead to the departure of at least 3,000 middle managers. BT also announced that Mr Graeme Odgers, its deputy chairman, had resigned. Page 21

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Yeoman Warder: calling in the union

Beefeaters take up pikes over Sunday work

By Tim Jones, Employment Affairs Correspondent

THE Yeoman Warders of the Tower of London, who reach for their pikes when described as Beefeaters, have asked their union to fight on their behalf to prevent a proposal to open up the royal palace on Sunday mornings.

The 42 Yeomen, who receive 2.2 million visitors a year, regard their Sunday mornings as a welcome relief from constant questioning. They have asked the National Union of Civic and Public Servants to intercede because they believe their lives are hard enough.

Their perpetual cheerfulness is world-renowned, but it takes its toll. They would happily exchange a penny for their basic salary of about £7,500 for every time they have posed for a photograph with a Japanese tourist or a child dripping ice-cream.

The question of the new opening hours at the Tower is to be raised in the Lords by Lord Halsbury, who regularly attends Sunday morning services at the Chapel Royal.

Ultimately, the issue could be brought to the attention of the Queen, for the prospect of disrupting Sunday morning services, when the Tower becomes, briefly, a sanctuary for the 50 families who live within its ramparts, is causing concern in senior church circles.

A spokeswoman for the Historic Royal Palaces, the agency which is responsible for the Tower of London, confirmed yesterday that Sunday opening was being considered.

Lord Halsbury, president of the Association of Friends of the Chapels Royal, said that in considering the move the Government could be accused of acting in a "philistine" manner.

Mr Brian Canditon, the Warders' shop

steward, said that although the move was probably inevitable, "it must not be assumed that we are in favour of it. Sunday morning is the one day when the Tower becomes our private home and we can either attend services, relax or simply enjoy a lunch with our families."

"Some of our members are very unhappy about the prospect and it is probably the first time in our long and proud history that the union has been called in. We already work more than 50 hours a week on average and must be able to enjoy some uninterrupted time with our families."

When the possibility of Sunday opening was raised in the Commons last month, Mr Conal Gregory, Conservative MP for York, said it was a "national scandal" that the Tower — "a national treasure trove" — was only open on Sunday afternoons during the summer.

WILBUR SMITH

GOLDEN FOX

HIS NEW BESTSELLER

Cabinet approves poll tax capping for 20 councils

By Nicholas Wood, Political Correspondent

THE community charge is to be capped in about 20 Labour-controlled local authorities under a package of measures approved by the Cabinet yesterday.

An announcement in the Commons from Mr Christopher Patten, Secretary of State for the Environment, is expected next week, probably on Tuesday.

It is understood that few if any Conservative councils are among those whose budgets and poll tax bills are to be pruned. Insiders are insisting, however, that the criteria used to define excessive spending and to identify councils to be capped have not been fiddled to spare Tory-run authorities.

Mr Patten said on Wednesday that any decisions he made had to stand up in court.

However, Mr Roy Hattersley, Labour's deputy leader, said last night that capping 20 Labour councils might be legal, but it would not be fair: "It will stink, and the public will know that it stinks."

The seven councils rate-capped last year — Camden, Greenwich, Hackney, Lewisham, Southwark, Thamesdown and Tower Hamlets — plus about a dozen others are expected to be on Mr Patten's list. Tower Hamlets is run by the Liberal Democrats, but the rest are Labour controlled.

Details of the package

emerged at Westminster as Conservative backbenchers' anxiety over the poll tax again surfaced in the Commons.

Mr Anthony Beaumont-Dark, Tory MP for Birmingham, Selly Oak, told the Prime Minister that the poll tax had become "friendless" even among those who gained from it.

Mr Neil Kinnock also marked the last Prime Minister's Questions before the scrapping of domestic rates with a fierce attack on the "flagship" of Mrs Thatcher's third term. "The people of Britain know that from Sunday they will have imposed on them a tax of monstrous injustice and cost. It is incompatible with democracy."

Mrs Thatcher, however, insisted that the community charge was preferable to the alternatives of a rating revaluation, which would put a colossal burden on half the people in a local government area, local income tax or Labour's roof tax, which was "blown sky-high" every time Mr Kinnock denounced it.

Ability to pay was taken care of by most generous rebates and the fact that most council spending was paid for by the taxpayer, she argued.

Mrs Thatcher also disclosed that the plight of 51,000 student nurses, most of whom face paying a full community

charge out of salaries of between £5,695 to £6,630 outside London, would be eased by changes in their status.

By 1995, it is intended that all student nurses will be on Project 2,000, a new approach to their training and education, which does away with working on the wards and pays bursaries. Some 3,000 trainees are already on the new course.

Mrs Thatcher said that they would then be treated as "ordinary students" and would be liable for only 20 per cent of the charge.

Labour returned to the attack last night with Mr Bryan Gould, its chief environment spokesman, linking Mrs Thatcher's "grand obsession" with the poll tax and the rise of Mr Michael Heseltine as the Tory "leader in waiting".

"It is getting hard to walk around the House of Commons without tripping over cabals of Conservative MPs plotting the succession," he told an anti-poll tax rally in Colchester, Essex.

He had earlier described the community charge as a "tax on being 18" and predicted that it would break up families. "With huge household bills, more young people are bound to be thrown out on the streets."

Parliament, page 6

Lambeth braced for high tax

By Libby Jukes

NEARLY 80 per cent of households in Lambeth, south London, will be worse off under the poll tax than under the rates system, councillors said as they met last night to complete what was expected to be the country's second highest rate.

According to the results of a MORI opinion poll published by the council, three-quarters of residents disapprove of the community charge. But 72 per cent, including 76 per cent of owner-occupiers, support a policy of setting a budget which would maintain services at their present level, with only 16 per cent calling

for cuts. The councillors were discussing a proposed poll tax figure of £547.89 recommended by their policy and resources committee, which was well under the original estimate of £650.

That would put Lambeth in second place behind the London borough of Haringey, which set a poll tax of £572 earlier this month.

Ms Joan Twelves, leader of the Lambeth council, denied that the figure was intended as a gesture of defiance against the Government, which will use its guideline figure of £308 for the borough if the Secretary of State for the Environ-

ment decides that the council should be capped.

One of the 18 rebel West Oxfordshire Tories who resigned the Conservative whip over high poll tax demands and council house rents has rejoined the party.

Talks are to be held next Monday in an attempt to persuade others to return.

Mrs Phyllis Bradd, deputy mayor of Witney, said she was returning to the Tory group on West Oxfordshire district council after four weeks as an Independent because she felt that the Chancellor, Mr John Major, had taken notice of the protest.

Legal moves to cut discrimination

JAMES GRAY



Lord Mackay of Clashfern, the Lord Chancellor, talking to Mr John Roberts QC, at Lincoln's Inn, outside one of two "black sets" of barristers' chambers he visited yesterday.

Lord Mackay is keen to stamp out racial discrimination in the legal profession and to open up the ranks of the judiciary to the ethnic minorities.

Mr Peter Crosswell QC, chairman of the Bar Council, said that white firms of solicitors do not, as a rule, send work to black barristers.

Thatcher support for 'facts' lobby

By Sam Kiley, Higher Education Reporter

The Prime Minister entered the debate on the teaching of history when she declared in the Commons yesterday that children should be taught "the great landmarks of British history".

Mrs Thatcher told MPs during question time that "Most of us are expected to learn from experience of history and we cannot do that unless we know it."

With the working party on the new National Curriculum expected to publish its final report next week, Mrs Thatcher lent her support to facts.

She supports the views of the senior academics and poets who formed the National History Curriculum Association to press for a greater emphasis on factual knowledge in classroom history.

They are hoping to challenge the "empathy school" who believe that it is more important for a child to know

what it was like to have been a Roman soldier than when the first legions arrived.

While Mr John MacGregor, Secretary of State for Education, is in sympathy with the Prime Minister, *The Times Education Supplement* reports today that the history working party's report will shy away from explicitly requiring "factual knowledge" of events to be tested. The decision about how the courses are assessed rests with the Government.

According to the paper, Mr MacGregor is planning to publish the working party's report with a covering letter insisting that pupils' factual knowledge will be tested.

Sources close to Mr MacGregor said yesterday that they would be surprised if there was not a good deal of controversy surrounding the publication of the report: "History is by far the most political subject."

Tories urged to hold their nerve

By Philip Webster, Chief Political Correspondent

MR Kenneth Baker will today urge the Conservative Party to hold its nerve in the face of opinion polls showing a record Labour lead and deep concern in the country about high interest rates and the community charge.

The Tory chairman, the Prime Minister and other senior ministers will use speeches at the Conservative Central Council in Cheltenham today and tomorrow to begin reviving party morale and urge it to look beyond present difficulties to preparing to win the general election.

With a number of the resolutions tabled for the council voicing unhappiness at the presentation of the Government's case, Mr Baker will tackle the issues seen to be of greatest concern: interest rates and the poll tax.

He will issue a strong defence of both while emphasizing the Government's readi-

ness to listen to the concerns of the party and the electorate. Mr Baker will say high interest rates are essential to bring back low inflation.

He will say the introduction of any new system of local government finance was bound to be unpopular, especially when it was being levied on 35 million people rather than 18 million as under the rates, and he will stress that retention of the rating system would have meant big rises after revaluation and just as much unpopularity.

In another debate today Mr David Hunt, Minister for Local Government, will underline the Government's readiness to look at improvements to the poll tax system.

It is already considering a revision of standard spending assessments in the hope of making bills less fearsome next year in the run-up to an election.

Pilot death statistics provoke new study

Sixty per cent of commercial airline pilots die before the age of 65, according to surveys carried out in Britain, South America and Canada (Harvey Elliott writes).

Pilots' union leaders are so alarmed by the statistics, compiled from pension fund records, that they have launched a worldwide study to try to establish what is causing the early deaths.

More than 70,000 professional pilots will be asked about their stress levels, drinking and smoking habits and even whether their sex lives are satisfactory in a questionnaire sent out by the International Federation of Airline Pilots Association.

Illegitimacy up

Illegitimacy is on the increase, according to figures released yesterday by the Office of Population Censuses and Surveys. More than a quarter of babies were born outside marriage in England and Wales in 1988, accounting for 25.6 per cent of live births, compared with 10.2 per cent in 1978.

No prosecution

A Royal Ulster Constabulary officer who fired a plastic bullet which killed a boy aged 13 during republican riots in Belfast will not be prosecuted. The Director of Public Prosecutions directed against action after the death last August of Seamus Duffy, the RUC said last night.

Farm fund fight

Britain's farmers said yesterday they had been denied a £550 million boost in income by the collapse of negotiations in Luxembourg on the fixing of European Community farm prices for the 1990 harvest. A compromise package included a three-fifths devaluation of the "green pound".

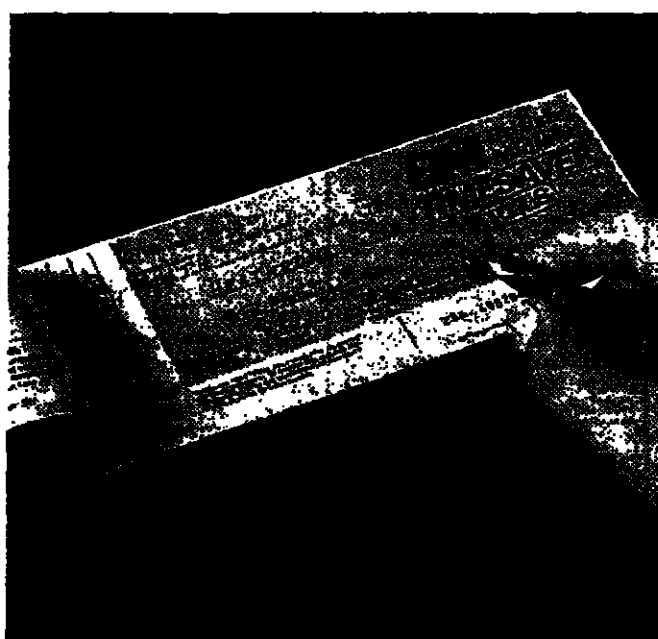
Reid retires

Sir Robert Reid, chairman of British Rail, retires today, aged 69, after serving BR for 43 years. His post will be taken by Mr Robert Reid, former chairman and chief executive of Shell UK, who begins as a part-time non-executive chairman before assuming full-time responsibility in October.

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Palumbo proposes state funding for care of cathedrals

By Simon Tait, Arts Correspondent

ENGLISH Heritage and the Arts Council look certain to clash over proposals put forward by Mr Peter Palumbo, the council's chairman, which appear to usurp responsibility for some historic buildings.

Mr Palumbo, in an article in *The Times* today, says the Arts Council should take responsibility for the care of cultural buildings in England to get the nation's historic buildings in top condition in time for the new millennium.

In particular he selects cathedrals as being in need of state care.

English Heritage, formally the Historic Buildings and Monuments Commission for England, is responsible to the Department of the Environment for built heritage in England.

The Arts Council is funded separately by the Office of Arts and Libraries.

In his article, however, Mr Palumbo writes: "The stock of buildings that constitute the cultural fabric of the nation, including cathedrals, leave much to be desired in terms of their structural condition and essential artistic facilities."

"The council will quantify necessary repair and buildings projects to construct a policy for the cultural fabric of the nation for completion by the millennium."

"I hope that the Government will agree to meet a substantial part of the cost of any such programme."

The rest would come from the private sector.

Last night Mr Palumbo said he was anxious that the 42

cathedrals in the country should receive government help in repairing their fabric. "I am aware that English Heritage believes the cathedrals are capable of raising their own funds for repair, but it takes too long. I think that had to be done in 10 years, not in 50."

He believes it could cost £50 million a year to get the great medieval cathedrals, such as Salisbury, Worcester, Lincoln and Hereford, into shape by the millennium.

It is understood that English Heritage has made its own attempt to get funds for the cathedrals, but more in the realm of £5 million to £8 million a year.

English Heritage, in a frosty response to Mr Palumbo's proposals, said: "While we welcome any interest in the state of this country's historic buildings, as the public body responsible for funding the repair of our built heritage, we would, of course, expect the Arts Council to come and consult with us over any ideas they may have."

Mr Palumbo, just a year in the chair at the Arts Council, said: "I have not talked to English Heritage about this, but I have talked to a lot of other people. It seems the right thing to do."

The maverick approach to new proposals with which Mr Palumbo has been identified is thought to have contributed to the decision of Mr Luke Rittner, the Arts Council secretary general, to resign.

However, he refused to make any comment on his

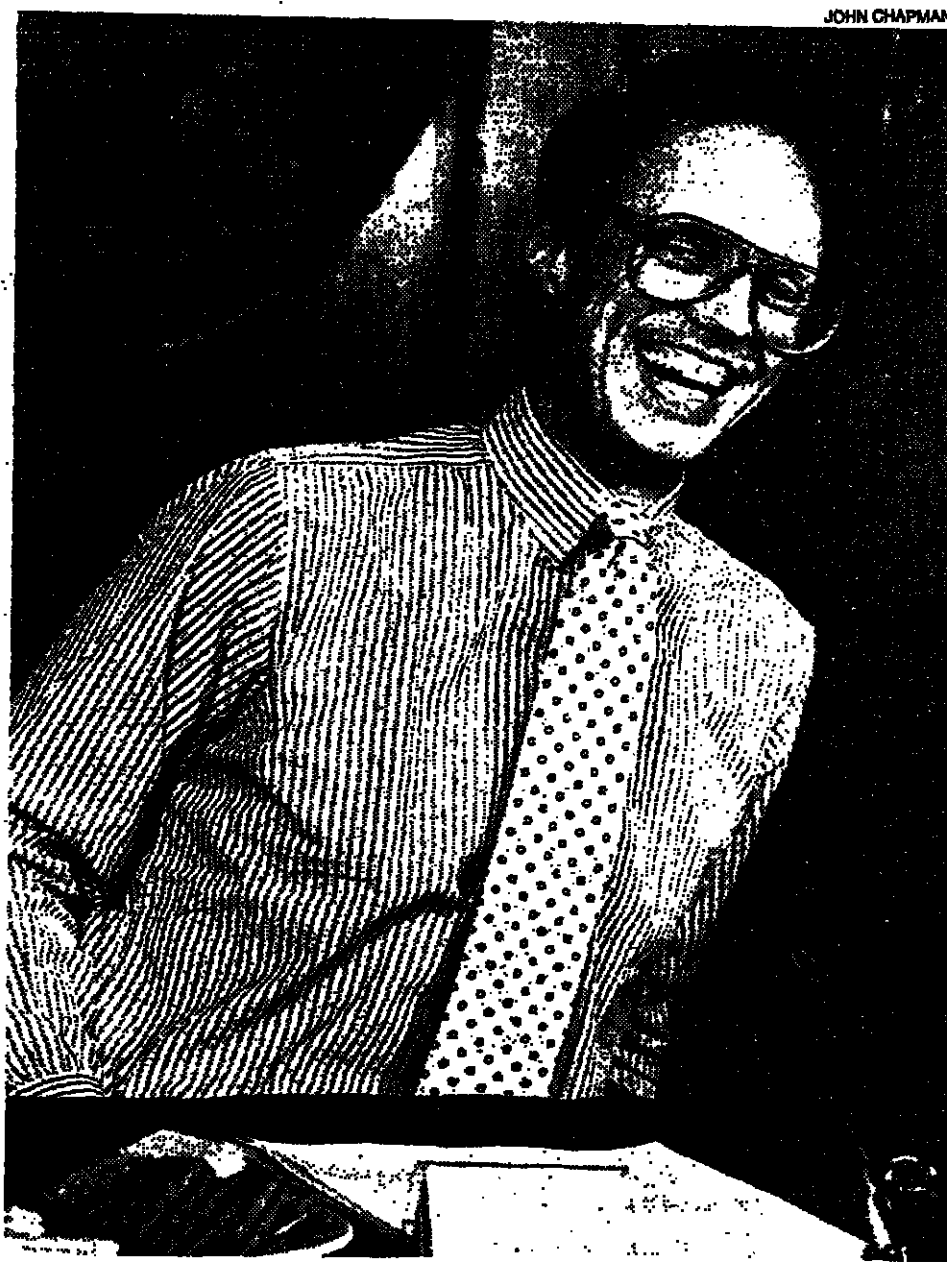
decision when he gave the briefing on the Arts Council's monthly meeting yesterday. By a coincidence, it also fell to Mr Rittner to announce the council's decision to back its chairman over the restructuring of the council and arts funding as announced by Mr Richard Luce, Minister for the Arts. Mr Rittner disagrees with the restructuring.

Mr Palumbo said in his statement that he welcomed the three main factors in the minister's decision: announced two weeks ago: the devolution of many funding responsibilities to the regions, the strengthening of accountability from the regions to the Arts Council and a new strategy and policy-making role for the council.

"I see it as the council's duty now to carry out this work," Mr Rittner found himself saying on his chairman's behalf.

For his own part, he praised the work of the Arts Council. "The artistic life of the nation is created by the artist, and the Arts Council has played an incredibly important part in creating the right conditions for artists. I am only sorry the arts are not enjoyed by a wider cross-section of the nation."

Mr Rittner leaves his post with the council at the end of next month. He said his successor would need "certainly a sense of humour, certainly a reasonably thick skin, but not so thick that you become unfeeling, certainly an absolute commitment to the arts. That is what makes the interminable bureaucracy and



Mr Rittner at the Arts Council press meeting a day after resigning as secretary general

with the approval of the Arts Council, at the end of its 1990 season. "There are still some final decisions to be made by local committees in Yorkshire, but its beginning to look almost certain," Mr Stephen Revell, Northern Ballet's

administrator, said. Yesterday the Arts Council announced that it would continue funding the company after 1991 at the present level of £700,000 a year.

Palumbo proposals, page 14

Lord Linley wins £35,000 over public house libel

By Michael Horswell

LORD Linley was awarded £35,000 damages yesterday over a newspaper story that suggested he was an "upper-class lager lout" by reporting he had been banned from a London public house for throwing beer.

The award to the first member of the Royal Family to bring a libel action to court included £30,000 exemplary damages designed to express disapproval at the newspaper's conduct.

The High Court jury rejected the defence by *Today* newspaper that it acted in good faith in publishing the story after checking a tip-off about the alleged incident with the manageress of the public house.

The Queen's nephew looked delighted when the jury of four men and eight women announced the award and shook the hand of his counsel, Mr Charles Gray, QC.

He later issued a statement saying: "I decided to issue proceedings in respect of the story in *Today* newspaper because it was a complete invention and my request for the publication of an immediate apology was refused."

"Mrs Carolyn Peacock, the manageress of the Ferret and Firkin public house, who was given by the newspaper as the source of the story, adamantly denied it to me."

"That being so, I considered it right to include in the action a claim for exemplary damages to enable this matter to be put to the jury for them to decide who invented the story. This has now been done."

Mr Justice Michael Davies had told the jury, which took 4½ hours to reach a unanimous verdict, that it could award exemplary damages if it found the story had been invented.

While admitting the article, published in the *Chris Hutchins Confidential* column on March 28 last year, was untrue, *Today* claimed it was based on information given by Mrs Peacock to two freelance journalists. The story was then confirmed by a staff reporter, Mr James Steen, aged 24.

The newspaper, which is seeking leave to appeal against the exemplary damages, said after the case: *Today* has always maintained its belief in the integrity of the journalist who published the story and continues to do so.

Mr David Montgomery, the editor, said the newspaper's decision to challenge the exemplary damages was to "clear the name of a young, decent reporter who is accused of inventing a story". The reporter had been told of the incident and reported it in good faith.

Four witnesses — as against one for Lord Linley — supported the newspaper's case. "We now have a fifth witness," Mr Montgomery said.

The general damages of £5,000 were "derisory in the light of huge awards recently", he said. "Our reporter's reputation is worth more than £5,000 and *Today* will fight to restore it," Lord Linley, aged

28, who left the court by the judge's exit to avoid a crowd of reporters, said the newspaper's publishers News (UK) Ltd.

The judge refused a request by counsel for the newspaper for the usual 28-day order freezing payment of the £30,000 exemplary damages, granting instead only seven days.

He said: "I am not reluctant to grant stays. This seems to me to be so eminently a question of who the jury believed in this matter."

Today, which paid £125 for the story, will have to pay costs estimated at £75,000.

Lord Linley had told the court of his "hurt and anger" when he read the story.

He denied ever indulging in boozing behaviour or arrogantly throwing his money about. There was no question of him ever throwing beer.

He said he felt incredibly angry when he saw the story. "I have a lot of press comment on a lot of things, so one hardens oneself to a certain amount of inaccuracy, but this was completely untrue. I felt they had gone too far."

Lord Linley, who runs his own business, David Linley Furniture, and has a shop in New King's Road, Fulham, west London, near the Ferret and Firkin, said one of his first thoughts was that his family would read the article and that it could have a damaging effect on them.

He also feared that any customer about to place a large order with his company might "at worst" not place the order or might "take a very dim view" because of the story.

Lord Linley's QC had told the jury that the decision by a member of the Royal Family to "run the gauntlet" of a court hearing was not an easy one to take.

Mrs Peacock, who now runs the Uxbridge Arms public house in Kensington, west London, gave evidence on Lord Linley's behalf during the hearing and denied telling reporters about any such incident.

The first time she saw Lord Linley was on the day the article was published and he came into the public house with a friend to talk to her about it.



Lord Linley: Awarded exemplary damages

Doctors' role in sale of kidneys found proved

By John Young

TWO surgeons and a physician took part in the sale of kidneys for transplant operations, the General Medical Council ruled yesterday.

The professional conduct committee, however, has still to decide whether the actions of the transplant surgeon Mr Michael Bewick, the urologist Mr Michael Joyce, and the Harley Street specialist, Dr Raymond Crockett, constituted serious professional misconduct.

It is unlikely to reach a verdict until the middle of next week, after hearing lawyers' submissions. If the doctors are found guilty, they could face a range of penalties from admonishment to being struck off the register.

Dr Crockett was found to have arranged a number of operations between June 1 and November 30, 1988 for the removal of kidneys from Mr Ferhat Usta, Mr Ahmet Koc, Mrs Hatice Anitkan and Mr Coskun Yenici for trans-

plantation. He knew that none of the donors was related to the recipient and that there was no close and enduring relationship between them.

Dr Crockett culpably failed to establish that financial or other improper inducements or payments had not been made and would not be made; and that the patient understood the risks involved and the possible complications and after effects.

He failed to procure valid consent in writing from any of the donors and was found to have acquiesced in the sale of human organs.

Dr Crockett was also found to have improperly given cheques to Mr Ata Nur Kunter, representing sums of money to be paid to Mr Usta and Mr Koc for their kidneys.

An allegation that he initiated, sanctioned or acquiesced in the publication of an advertisement in the Egyptian newspaper *Al Ahran* offering payments for kidneys was not proved. But the committee

found that he had condoned its publication by causing or permitting his secretary to answer inquiries relating to it.

Both Mr Joyce and Mr Bewick were found to have carried out a number of transplant operations at the Humana Wellington Hospital, St John's Wood, north London between June 1 and November 30, 1988 by arrangement with Dr Crockett.

Each had failed to establish before the operations that financial or other improper inducements or payments had

not been made; whether the patient and recipient were related or had a close and enduring relationship; the circumstances in which the patient's kidney was being provided for transplantation; and that the patient understood the risks involved and the possible complications and after effects.

They had also failed to procure an informed and valid consent in writing or adequately to discuss the proposed operation with the patient. Mr Joyce, who during

the hearing broke down and admitted the allegations, was found to have unwittingly taken part in the sale of human organs.

Dr Bewick was found to have taken part in their sale, the word "unwittingly" not appearing in the allegation.

Mr Bewick was also found to have transplanted a cadaver kidney from a National Health Service patient into a private patient on November 19, 1988 and to have knowingly given false information to Dr David Taube, consultant nephrologist at Dulwich Hospital renal unit, by telling him that the kidney would be transplanted into a health service patient.

The hearing, which is the longest and most expensive in the council's history, began in early December but has been interrupted by several pre-arranged adjournments.

Among the early witnesses were the four Turkish donors, who were flown to London from Istanbul to give evidence through an interpreter. Mr

Koc told the hearing that he had come to London under the impression that he was going to be offered a job and that he did not know his kidney was to be removed until he woke up in hospital after the operation.

However, an allegation that Dr Crockett had failed to establish whether Mr Koc — who did not speak, read, write or understand English — understood that he was to undergo an operation was not proven.

Last night Sir Robert Kilpatrick, the chairman of the committee, appealed to the Press and the public not to comment on any aspects of the case until the committee rules on the charges of serious professional misconduct against all three doctors.

Sir Robert said that was not only to be fair to the doctors, but also so as not to deter potential organ donors. "I do wish to stress the responsibility is very great," he said.

The hearing continues today.



Kidney transplant trio: Dr Raymond Crockett, Mr Michael Bewick and Mr Michael Joyce

Father and sons jailed for kidnap of sunbed salesman

By David Sapsted

A HAULAGE company chief and his two sons were jailed yesterday for a plot to send a "pushy" sunbed salesman to Poland, bound and gagged in the back of a lorry.

Mr Ewart Nash cut himself free with the broken metallic strap on his wrist watch, Gloucester Crown Court was told yesterday.

Mr Nash had been put in the lorry by Harold Williams and his sons Timothy and Paul after a dispute over a £541 sunbed which he said Timothy's wife, Jane, had agreed to buy.

Timothy had demanded a refund and told Mr Nash he was going to make him eat his dirty wellingtons, the court was told; but his father suggested they should instead send Mr Nash to Poland.

Mr Nash was said to have been bound, and taken in the

boot of a Mercedes to a Gloucestershire lorry park. There, he was put into the canvas-sided trailer, but wriggled free and used the broken watch strap to cut himself out.

Harold Williams, aged 54, of Valence, Gloucestershire, was jailed for three years; Timothy Williams, aged 25, for 2½ years; and Paul Williams, aged 24, for one year after a "trial of issues" in which the defendants admitted kidnapping, but contested the facts.

Judge Hutton said: "I have little doubt that the salesman was pushy. But that is no possible excuse for what you did. There is no room for self help in this country. That is where anarchy sets in."

The Williams family maintained that Mr Nash had taken an Access card number to check the credit rating but

had then charged the full price of the sunbed to the card. Mr Nash, aged 34, of Whitechurch Park, Bristol, denied that.

Harold Williams, who was described as a lynchpin of the local community who had organized food relief convoys to eastern Europe, said Mr Nash was neither bound nor gagged and had got into the boot of his car because he was comfortable there and because it was carpentered. The judge described that explanation as an "incredible pack of lies".

● A trial of issues takes place when there is a dispute on the facts of the case, even though the defendant admits guilt. (Our Legal Affairs Correspondent writes.)

Where this difference will have an influence on the sentence, the judge may hear the evidence himself and decide who he believes.

Three policemen freed as judges find 'lurking doubt'

By A Staff Reporter

THREE policemen had their convictions quashed by the Court of Appeal yesterday nearly a year after they were jailed for allegedly plotting to frame two students on criminal damage charges.

The men walked free after Lord Justice Watkins said the court felt "very uneasy indeed" over the safety of the convictions and had a lurking doubt.

The trial of the three officers came after incidents in a subway at Marble Arch, central London, when two students, Simon Glenday and David Barnard, from Swindon, Wiltshire, were alleged to have tossed lighted matches into litter bins.

PC David Keneally, aged 30, and probationary constables Nicholas Strapp, aged 28, and David Lockwood, aged 24, were convicted at the

Central Criminal Court last May of conspiring to pervert the course of justice.

Mr Keneally had been jailed for four years, and Mr Strapp and Mr Lockwood had received three-year sentences.

A fourth constable, Villayat Ali, aged 26, who implicated the three men four weeks after the alleged incident, in April 1987, pleaded guilty and was sentenced to 15 months in jail. Damage charges against the students were dropped after Ali came forward.

Lord Justice Watkins, sitting with Mr Justice Nolan and Mr Justice McKinnon, said the alleged incident had been "trivial" and could only have resulted in fines.

The jail terms on the officers, who had been highly praised by their superiors, were manifestly excessive.

The Court of Appeal had

been urged to hold that there was something rather odd about the case and to rule the convictions unsafe and unsatisfactory. It did not upset convictions, on a lurking doubt basis unless it was driven to by the evidence that confronted it.

Lord Justice Watkins said: "This was a case with very special features and we feel very uneasy indeed about it."

The trial judge should have made the jury keenly aware of why police officers at the outset of their careers, in respect of a trifling criminal offence, would do as they did. What was more, they had acted with an officer (Ali) with whom they had not got on.

Lord Justice Watkins said the trial judge had also erred in directing the jury that the evidence of the students had supported the evidence of Ali.

Scots study overturns vitamin pill findings

By Thomson Prentice, Science Correspondent

VITAMIN pills do not make children more intelligent or improve their schoolwork, according to the results of a study published in *The Lancet*.

Scientists at Dundee University say their findings fail to support the claim of a previous study in Wales two years ago that vitamin and mineral supplements could increase children's performance in a form of IQ test.

In the latest research, 43 pupils aged between 11 and 13 at a Dundee school took six different IQ tests before being given the pills, and the same tests again nine months later.

A similar group also took part, but were given placebos.

"Our results do not show that supplementation of diet with vitamins and minerals increases intelligence," Dr Iain Crombie, of the university's department of community medicine, who led the study, said yesterday.

"The children taking the active treatment did not do better than those taking the inactive tablets."

The initial study in Wales was criticized as unscientific. Another study, involving pupils in England, the US and Israel, is being conducted.

Irish libel jury 'recognized importance of freedom of expression'

By Edward Gorman and Frances Gibb

THE High Court in Dublin yesterday ordered *The Sunday Times* to pay six days of legal costs to an Irish farmer who successfully sued for libel over an article which claimed wrongly linked him with the IRA. But Mr Justice Lynch ordered his brother, who failed in his action, to pay the newspaper's costs.

Speaking after the finding, Mr Andrew Neil, the paper's editor, said the freedom of the press and broadcasting media to report the activities of the IRA would have been seriously curtailed if the jury in Dublin had awarded large libel damages to the brothers.

If the jury had awarded a large sum in damages, such as £500,000, Granada Television would be in a "significantly more perilous position than they are today", he said. If any the four men named by

Granada in its programme on Wednesday night as responsible for the Birmingham public house bombings had seen such an outcome, "they would have been encouraged to take the same action".

Mr Patrick Murphy, a farmer and business man, of Coroneagh, Crossmaglen, Co. Armagh, won £115,000 damages on Wednesday. The jury made no award to Murphy's brother, Mr Thomas Murphy, of Ballybinny, Co. Louth, who also claimed libel.

The Murphys sued *Times* Newspapers, Mr Neil, and four other journalists over an article published in June 1985, about an IRA plan to bomb seaside resorts in Britain. The brothers claimed a reference to the IRA appointing a person called "Slab" Murphy to be an IRA operations commander was taken by some people to mean one or the other of them. The jury

found that both brothers were actively supportive of the IRA and men of worthless character. Thomas was a man of violence but Patrick was not.

Deciding on costs, Mr Justice Lynch said that in spite of the jury's findings in the case of Patrick, he did not think Patrick was deprived of all his rights at law. The judge said the jury had found Patrick was not a prominent member and had nothing to do with more serious matters and had succeeded to that extent.

In Thomas Murphy's case, Mr Justice Lynch said the jury had found against him. It found he was a prominent IRA member and, not only supportive of it, but a man of worthless character, and violence, and had decided to award him no damages.

Mr Brian MacArthur, an executive editor of *The Sunday Times*, said on Wednesday he believed

the newspaper had been vindicated. "We feel vindicated in the sense that this case started with a request for the largest damages in Irish libel history," he said.

Mr Neil said legal advice he had received before the case was to settle the action. "I refused. I would rather go down for £500,000 than do a deal behind closed doors," he said.

The trend in such cases however is to settle out of court. Both Murphy brothers have issued other libel proceedings which have been settled, including one against the *Daily Mail*. A firm of publishers was also sued by them over similar allegations to those made in *The Sunday Times* and an out-of-court settlement agreed.

There is a growing view in legal circles that fears of large libel awards can be exploited to financial advantage by those accused of IRA links. Writs are increasingly

coming from foreign plaintiffs, who have heard that the law of libel in the United Kingdom is an easy way to make substantial sums after recent high awards.

The verdict in *The Sunday Times* action was merely the latest example of an exemplary record on the part of Irish courts and juries in protecting free speech, according to a senior Belfast academic.

Professor Simon Lee, professor of jurisprudence at Queen's University, Belfast, said the judge's directions to the jury in the case were immaculate. The jury had shown ordinary Irish people had no more sympathy with individuals they found were rightly linked with terrorism than did British juries.

Professor Lee argued that the outcome and conduct of the case was very much in keeping with decisions by the Irish High Court

and Supreme Court in Dublin on Wednesday.

Both courts threw out an attempt by a man named in Granada Television's *World In Action* programme as allegedly involved in the Birmingham public house bombings, to prevent RTE from broadcasting his name.

In refusing the injunction, the Chief Justice argued that while the Irish Constitution recognized the importance of vindicating one's good name, it also recognized the right of freedom of expression and gave that a higher priority.

"In *The Sunday Times* case the Irish jury said in effect, freedom of expression is very important, and that if people are not of good character they are not going to be able to inhibit the freedom of the Press, though the Press must still act responsibly because people's lives are at stake and careless talk in Ireland, north and south, costs

lives," Professor Lee said. "But if the Press really felt they have something to go on, then they have the right to proceed."

Professor Lee echoed the views of many lawyers in Dublin who believe the British legal system and media hold what he described as a "totally misguided" view of the Irish legal system.

"There is a feeling in the British media, if not the legal system, that Irish judges, in not extraditing people, or the Attorney General in not authorizing the extradition of Father Patrick Ryan, are somehow acting in concert with the Irish Government on the one hand, or the supporters of terrorism on the other," he said.

"But in fact, I think what this case reveals is that the Irish legal system has a very strong strain of independence of the courts from the executive, and an exemplary record on free speech."

Missing case files hold back inquiry into police squad

By Craig Seton

THE police investigation into the activities of the now-disbanded West Midlands Serious Crime Squad is being made more difficult because files, important documents and officers' pocket books are missing, the officer leading the inquiry said yesterday.

Members of the investigation into allegations that officers fabricated evidence are still searching for 31 out of 658 files dating from 1986 and documents missing from files.

Mr Donald Shaw, the assistant chief constable of West Yorkshire, who is leading the inquiry, told a press conference in Birmingham that 14 police pocket books were missing although it was a disciplinary offence for officers not to keep them.

The Police Complaints Authority, which is supervising the £1 million investigation, said yesterday that no "sensitive" conclusions could be drawn at this stage because of the missing documents, but it acknowledged that their absence would hinder inquiries.

The authority said it was particularly concerned about the missing pocket books, because they should be available for at least seven years. Some custody records had also been lost because of the West Midlands force's policy of shredding them after two years.

The inquiry, which began last August and is expected to last another year, is examining 76 complaints, 37 from people still in prison. It is also looking at the activities of 124 police officers, 49 from the serious

crime squad and 75 from West Midlands police and at least four other forces. The officers under scrutiny include a chief superintendent.

Sixteen people are seeking leave to appeal against their convictions or have indicated they intend to do so. Many of the complaints have arisen from the 754 arrests made by the squad from January 1986 until its winding up last August.

The 49 former serious crime squad officers have been issued with 240 Regulation 7 notices, which are served when a complaint is made against an officer. The other 75 officers have been served with 127 notices.

Mr Shaw said allegations that evidence had been fabricated had been a factor in all the complaints, but publicity concerning the inquiry may have encouraged "spurious" complaints, possibly generated by a "copycat" trend.

He denied there was any suggestion of a "conspiracy of silence" by former members of the squad.

"I cannot say whether the complaints are genuine or not. The picture emerging is of a lot of serious allegations against the serious crime squad. Given the massive publicity focused upon the squad, it is really surprising there are a lot of complaints. It is an emotive subject."

"Our report will be based on hard clinical evidence admissible in a court or at a disciplinary hearing."

Mr Roland Moyle, deputy chairman of the Police Com-

plaints Authority, told the press conference that the missing files would hinder the inquiry to some extent and he referred to the need for "healthy suspicion".

He said that not all the missing pocket books related to former officers of the serious crime squad. Mr Moyle also emphasized that Regulation 7 notices had been served on the 124 officers even where there was the slightest suspicion.

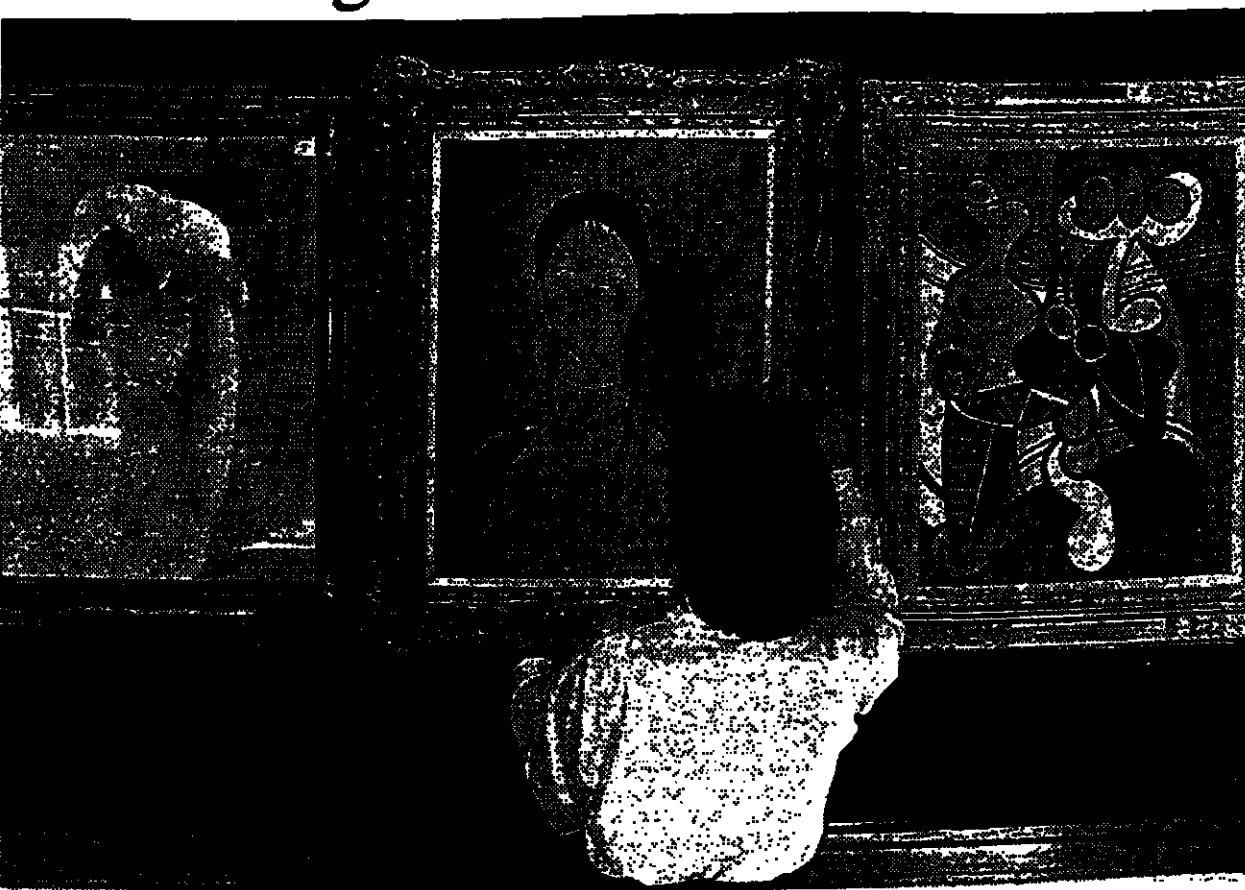
The action was taken because prosecutions against 24 police officers arising out of disorder at the News International plant at Wapping, east London, in 1986, had been lost because the Regulation 7 notices were judged to have been served too late.

Mr Moyle said the inquiry would consider the possibility of racial discrimination as 30 of the 76 complaints were Asian or Afro-Caribbean. The rest were white and two were women.

The serious crime squad was disbanded last summer by Mr Geoffrey Dear, the chief constable of the West Midlands, after allegations of fabricated evidence led to the collapse of the prosecution case in several court cases.

Mr Dear asked Mr Shaw to investigate the squad from 1986 onwards. He moved 53 detectives to non-operational duties to give the inquiry a "clear run". The inquiry, the largest supervised by the complaints authority since it was set up five years ago, may look at cases going back to April 1984.

Works of great faker come to auction



Grand deception: De Hory's fakes of Laurence, left, Modigliani and Picasso, would be worth £13 million if real

THE paintings, signed "Manet", "Monet", "Renoir" and "Modigliani", would command multi-millions if they were genuine, at Bonhams' auction next Monday.

Instead, they are the deceptive efforts of Elmyr de Hory, one of the greatest art fakers of the 20th century.

Bonhams, based in Knightsbridge, west London, hopes that, with estimates at between £5,000 and £8,000, the paintings will be in great demand as poor man's "masterpieces".

Highlights include "Drinkers at the Bar", similar to Manet's great Parisian scenes (estimate £3,000 to £5,000), "Woman in a Blue Interior", a watered-down version of one

of Matisse's bedroom pictures (estimate £3,500 to £5,500) and "Rue a Montmartre" in the manner of Maurice Utrillo. This has the highest estimate, of up to £8,000, as this lesser artist is favoured by the Japanese.

De Hory, or von Houry, Louis Casson, L. E. Reynal, Hoffman, Hertz or Dory-Boutin as he was also known - he faked his name too - was born in 1906 in Hungary. By the early 1920s he was studying under Fernand Leger in

Paris, floating on the outskirts of the Bohemian brotherhood of Derain, Matisse and Picasso.

His first success as a faker was in 1946 when an English woman mistook a drawing in his studio for a Picasso. He obliged by selling it as a choice example from the artist's classical period for £40.

When he discovered his client had sold the "Picasso" on to a dealer for £150, he decided to alter the course of his career. He was soon in the United States, as the "Baron de Hory", conducting a direct mail campaign, offering paintings by Matisse, Braque, Debra, Modigliani and Renoir.

He sold 70 paintings in two years, including a "Matisse"

to the Fogg Art Museum at Harvard University. His secret was only exposed in 1968 when buyers noticed the wet paint on some of his efforts.

He was interned for two months and died in 1979. Christie's matched the world record for a Scandinavian work when a painting of two bathing beauties by Anders Zorn fetched £1.76 million in London yesterday.

Other records included £264,000 (on its upper estimate) for Wilhelm Hammer's "Interior with a woman seated on a white chair" and £242,000 (estimate £80,000 to £120,000) for Johan Jensen's still life with hydrangea and a basket of lemons.

Cardiff museum to show royal art

By John Shaw

THE Queen is to lend 60 pictures from the royal collection to the National Museum of Wales in Cardiff during renovation work at Windsor Castle.

The aim is to make the paintings available to a wider public. They usually hang in a private corridor at Windsor but will be on view in a new gallery in Cardiff from October until February next year.

"We have not had anything like this for many years," Dr Mark Evans, the museum's assistant keeper of fine art, said yesterday. "The last time was when we had a group of Van Dykes from the royal collection here in the early 60s."

The display marks the opening of the museum's new exhibition suite, part of a £25 million development. It will mark the climax of the first phase of a policy of temporary loans by the Queen to various institutions during the Windsor renovations.

Some of the paintings are at present at museums in Aberdeen, Bristol, Newcastle upon Tyne, Norwich, Plymouth and Sheffield.

They will be brought together in Cardiff with a group of five Canaletto landscapes that have recently been returned from an exhibition in New York.

Most of the pictures were acquired either by George III or George IV. They include "Queen Charlotte with her two eldest sons" painted for George III by John Zoffany.

Other artists represented are Thomas Gainsborough, William Hogarth, George Stubbs, Sir Thomas Lawrence, Sir Joshua Reynolds and Sir Edwin Landseer.

Recorded offences show 4% increase

By Quentin Cowdry, Home Affairs Correspondent

OFFENCES recorded by the police in England and Wales increased by 4 per cent in 1989, almost offsetting progress made in 1988 which raised hopes that the tide had turned.

The total number of offences last year rose by 154,000, largely stemming from increases in property crime. There were an extra 81,000 recorded cases of theft, 36,000 of criminal damage, 24,000 involving violent offences and 8,000 burglaries.

Since 1979 recorded crime has risen by an average of 5 per cent a year. However, evidence supplied by the Home Office's British Crime Survey, based on face-to-face interviews with 10,000 households, suggests that the real level of increase has been around 3 per cent.

The Home Office claimed yesterday that a significant part of the increase was due to improved reporting of crime, particularly of rape, child abuse and domestic violence.

Ministers accept privately that the figures reflect a real increase in some crimes, notably non-sexual assaults. The figures on burglary show 3,000, or 1 per cent, fewer domestic break-ins but 11,000 more non-domestic cases, a rise of 3 per cent.

The 4 per cent overall increase in property crime also included rises of 7 per cent in vehicle thefts, 24 per cent in bicycles and 3 per cent in thefts from shops. Violent offences against people rose by 12 per cent, the same as in 1988, and robberies rose by 5 per cent, after a fall of 4 per cent.

Recorded sexual offences increased by 3,200 to 29,700, another 12 per cent rise. These included 3,305 rapes, a rise of 16 per cent on 1988, and 15,370 indecent assaults on females. The Home Office says the steep growth in recorded sexual crimes results largely from improved handling by the police. The clear-up rate for all crimes for all forces averaged 34 per cent.

Britain gets measure of world crime

THE broad crime rate in England and Wales is lower than in North America and many West European countries, and there are fewer violent offences, according to a survey published yesterday (Quentin Cowdry writes).

The survey, expected to become an important reference source for criminologists, is based on telephone interviews with a weighted sample of 2,000 people in 14 countries, including the United States, Canada, Australia, Britain and 10 other European states. It is the first attempt to produce a standardized way of comparing crime rates. Respondents were asked to give details of crimes that affected them in the five years to the spring of 1989.

From their replies, said to give a truer picture of crime than analysis of cases reported to police or recorded by them, researchers produced a percentage "victimization rate".

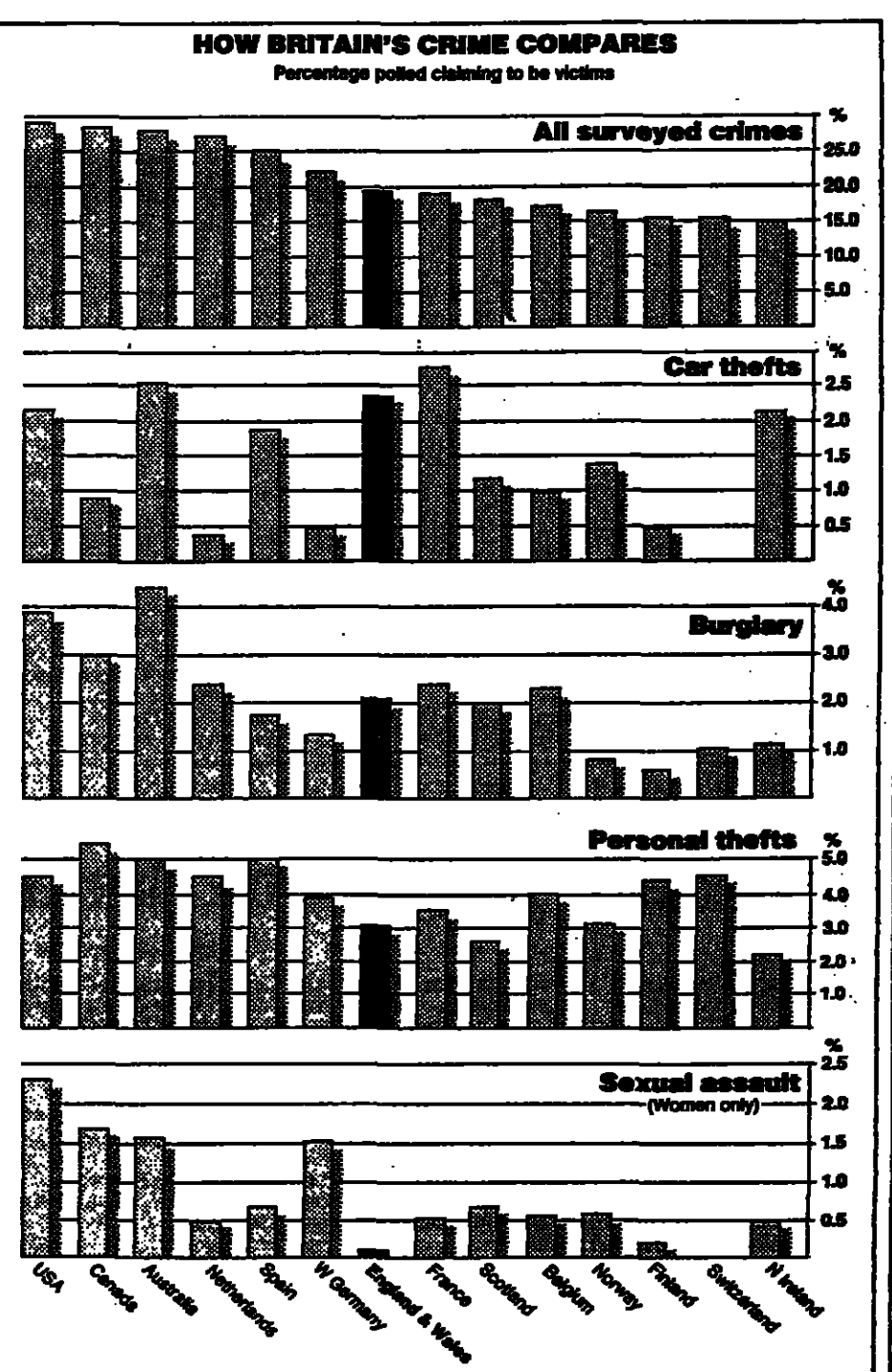
The survey indicates that 46 per cent of people in England and Wales were the victims of a crime over the five years, the fifth lowest among the countries involved in the survey. Northern Ireland had the lowest rate at 33.4 per cent, while Scotland was one place below England and Wales with 41.4 per cent.

The Netherlands recorded the highest rate, with 60.4 per cent, followed by the United States, 57.6 per cent, Australia 57.2 per cent, and Canada, 53 per cent.

Analysis of crimes committed in 1988 found that the United States had the worst record, with nearly 30 per cent of the sample having been the victim of a crime during the year. The rate for England and Wales was 19.4 per cent, just below average, and better than the figures for West Germany, Spain and The Netherlands.

The risk of burglary, according to the survey, is about average in England, Wales and Scotland, but considerably lower in Northern Ireland. People in Britain also appear to be less vulnerable to assaults and sexual offences than in many other countries.

This outcome of the survey is expected to cause some satisfaction at the Home Office, which has long argued that public perceptions about violent crime have been shaped too much by reported cases. It found that during 1988 assaults and frightening



threats were highest in the three non-European countries, while incidents in Britain were among the lowest. Force was used in less than half the cases in England and Wales, which had the lowest rate for assaults involving force.

In terms of sexual crimes in 1988, Scotland and England and Wales had the second lowest rate, with just 1.15 per

cent of respondents saying they had been a victim. Finland had the lowest rate.

Britain was also below average for the number of crimes involving cars. Further encouraging news is provided by finding that more than 70 per cent of people in England and Wales are satisfied with the police's response to crime. This was above the average for the 14 countries.

The survey's comparative assessment of fear of crime, a problem particularly acute for women, found anxiety was strongest in West Germany, England and Wales and the United States. The report was commissioned by three international experts on crime, including Miss Pat Mayhew of the Home Office.

and textile manufacturers collude in policies which could force up the price of shoes yet again, they should consider the needs of consumers."

The average Briton earns £10,980 a year, is fairly satisfied with his or her lot, and thinks running water, electricity and an indoor toilet are the bare necessities of modern life, according to a Common Market survey.

Nearly two-thirds blame long-term unemployment for the plight of the poor and 78 per cent think the public authorities are not doing enough to help.

The survey of nearly 12,000 people found that apart from an indoor toilet, a healthy diet next on the list of priorities for modern life. Least important seemed to be a car and an annual holiday.

The report quoted one importer of clothing from India, who said the quota system severely limited a source of high value-added enterprise and employment in developing countries.

"These trade barriers amount to hidden taxes, which hit poor families hardest," Lady Wilcox, the council chairman, said. "Before EC governments

World Service listeners defy fear and poverty

By Richard Evans, Media Editor

THE unsolicited letter from Anhui province in China that arrived on the doormat of Bush House in London last June was just one of 545,779 received by the BBC World Service from listeners in 1989. But it was different from most.

"At first I believed what you had reported. But later, when I watched Chinese Television's news about students rioting in Beijing, I couldn't help blame you the BBC."

"Why are you spreading rumours? Damn you! I wish your company bankrupt. I wish for you all to go to hell."

The letter, which was duly acknowledged, highlighted the way the perception abroad of the BBC can shift along with a country's political fortunes.

Only 12 months earlier, the corporation's postbag from China had swelled to a record 40,000 as new freedoms and improved reception of World Service programmes prompted Chinese listeners to write in, usually offering thanks and seeking more information.

That, however, was before Tiananmen Square and the intermittent jamming of BBC broadcasts.

Last year 14,000 fewer letters arrived from China. Some of those who dared to write were clearly frightened.

"I've written to you many times before and received your replies as well. But this time I won't write down my name and address. Please do understand," a Chinese listener and "BBC friend" wrote.

Oppression or media clampdowns do not always deter, however. The keenest writers by far are the Burmese, who sent 98,670 letters last year. "This reflects the terrible plight of listeners in Burma, where the domestic media are manipulated by the regime. Without the BBC, millions of people would be deprived of news," Mr John Tusa, managing director of the World Service, said yesterday.

The revolutionary changes in Eastern Europe have contributed to the 9 per cent overall increase in postcards and letters received from the

service's 120 million listeners. The highest increase came from the Soviet Union; mail to the Russian Service increased by 330 per cent.

"People have written to us from East and West, from the developed and the developing world, from capital cities to remote villages and refugee camps," Mr Tusa said. "Some letters are simple requests for information - others are moving tributes to the value our listeners place upon accurate, unbiased news and information in turbulent times."

In Eastern Europe, some of those who rely on the BBC felt able to write for the first time in decades. A Romanian began: "This is first of all a letter of thanks, and it is actually a letter you should have received in 1949."

Letters were received in all 37 World Service languages. Services prompting a large amount of correspondence were Arabic (69,291), Tamil (31,268) and Indonesian (38,698). The World Service in English received 95,756 letters.

One of the smallest services, Pashto, prompted a mailbag of 14,917 from listeners in Afghanistan and parts of Pakistan and Iran.

"It can be touching. Many people write to the BBC as a friend, sometimes about quite personal matters. In some of the poorest parts of the world, the cost of international postage can take a large slice of weekly income - but they still write," Mr Tusa said.



Mr Tusa: Emphasized the value of BBC's world news

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First bicycle clue to management skills

By Ruth Gledhill

TOO many companies are in trouble because they are run by men in their forties and fifties who have failed to grow up emotionally, according to a leading psychologist.

Dr Paul Brown, psychologist and management consultant, said yesterday that businesses will have to accept that many staff leave because they are tired of being treated badly by their immediate superior. "People leave productive jobs because it is too awful to stay."

Presenting a paper at Re-

late, the marriage guidance service, Dr Brown estimated that about a quarter of senior executives suffer from the "executive psychopathology of everyday life".

They use negotiating skills learnt from their parents. A key to managers' characters could be found in the method they used to obtain their first bicycles. "The good chief executive learns negotiating and management skills at this stage. He also learns how to manage rage and how to use power."

Import ban 'puts £1bn on clothes'

BRITISH consumers are paying an extra £1 billion a year for clothes because of restrictions on cheap foreign imports, according to a report published today by the National Consumer Council (Libby Jukes writes).

Similar import quotas on shoes add more than £1.60 a pair to cheaper makes from the Far East and East European countries, the report says.

The council is particularly concerned that the quotas restrict the choice available to the poorest families, who spend a higher proportion of their household budget - 12 per cent - on clothing and footwear.

It regards the Multi-Fibre Arrangement as the main culprit and is calling on the EC to revoke the agreement when it is reviewed in July next year. The

arrangement was introduced in 1974 as a temporary "disruption" of general regulations preventing trade barriers. Recent research suggested that it saves £30,000 per year each.

British clothing imports from Hong Kong have fallen from 31 per cent of the total to 20 per cent over the past 15 years, directly benefiting other EC countries, particularly Italy.

The report quoted one importer of clothing from India, who said the quota system severely limited a source of high value-added enterprise and employment in developing countries.

"These trade barriers amount to hidden taxes, which hit poor families hardest," Lady Wilcox, the council chairman, said. "Before EC governments

and textile manufacturers collude in policies which could force up the price of shoes yet again, they should consider the needs of consumers."

The average Briton earns £10,980 a year, is fairly satisfied with his or her lot, and thinks running water, electricity and an indoor toilet are the bare necessities of modern life, according to a Common Market survey.

Nearly two-thirds blame long-term unemployment for the plight of the poor and 78 per cent think the public authorities are not doing enough to help.

The survey of nearly 12,000 people found that apart from an indoor toilet, a healthy diet next on the list of priorities for modern life. Least important seemed to be a car and an annual holiday.

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Ilea quits County Hall in flurry of mixed metaphors

By Alan Franks

IN THE emptying corridors of County Hall on the South Bank in London, headquarters of the Inner London Education Authority, they are mixing their metaphors in a way even the most liberal English teacher would deplore. "The show hits the iceberg," "The fall tomorrow," and "At midnight on Saturday the place turns into a pumpkin" are two good examples.

It is not hard to forgive the dwindling band of officials their jumbled imagery, for this is the last working day of an authority which can trace its origins back more than 130 years and which has spent the past 18 months assisting in its own demise.

If the bitterness is muted, that is partly because most of the victims of the abolition have gone, leaving a skeleton staff to answer the phones that still ring and the post that still arrives. Where once there were nearly 3,000 people serving 1,037 schools in 13 boroughs with 17,711 teachers and 282,145 pupils, there are now just a couple of hundred.

The Fall of Saigon is another favoured simile; except that the "enemy", the Conservative Government, has no need to storm the gates of the 1920s monolith — and there are no helicopters hovering overhead.

Ilea is all over, though the party has only just begun. Wherever the eye wanders off the passages, panelled and imposing at the base of the pile but getting tacky by the sixth floor, there are sudden

flashes of white table-cloth with wine glasses and buffet food in office suites with no furniture. There are also men in blue boiler suits, pushing crates on trolleys. The remaining residents call these the undertakers.

The Last Days of the Raj is yet another comparison, but this too falls short of the mark. There is nothing here for a Paul Scott novel, as there will be no staying on. By September the whole place will be vacated, its affairs wound up by the London Residuary Body, and the last two non-Ilea bodies, the London Fire and Civil Defence Authority and the London Waste Regulation Authority, rehoused.

To the 45 elected members of the authority's ruling Labour group, the long-term fate of the mausoleum has a terrible ring of triumphalism as there are plans to turn it into a massive hotel and conference complex at a reported cost of £1.5 billion, the bulk of which would come from Japanese sources.

Tomorrow night there will be a final commemorative party, a wake to which, in the words of Mr Ron Alexander,

the chief press officer, the 58 members "will come as elected representatives and leave as ordinary citizens".

By now the recriminations about the way in which the abolition was achieved — Mr Neil Fletcher, the Ilea leader, considers it an act of ignorance rather than of malice — have given way to fears for the future of education in the capital.

Sitting in his vast room on the first floor, Mr Fletcher says he expects the full effects of transferring responsibility to the 13 boroughs will not be felt for about four years.

"To begin with, the Government's transitional grant will enable the authorities to continue at more or less the same levels of spending," he reasons. "But after that, and as the poll tax safety net tapers off, there will be substantial cuts. By 1995 I estimate that spending on education in London will be 20 per cent lower than at present."

"I also believe that there is a further agenda of cuts beyond that. For the past 10 years we have been told that our expenditure is 40 per cent above government targets — about

£1 billion a year as opposed to £600 million. One can only speculate on what this would mean for all the various provisions which, as a large regional body, Ilea has been able to offer."

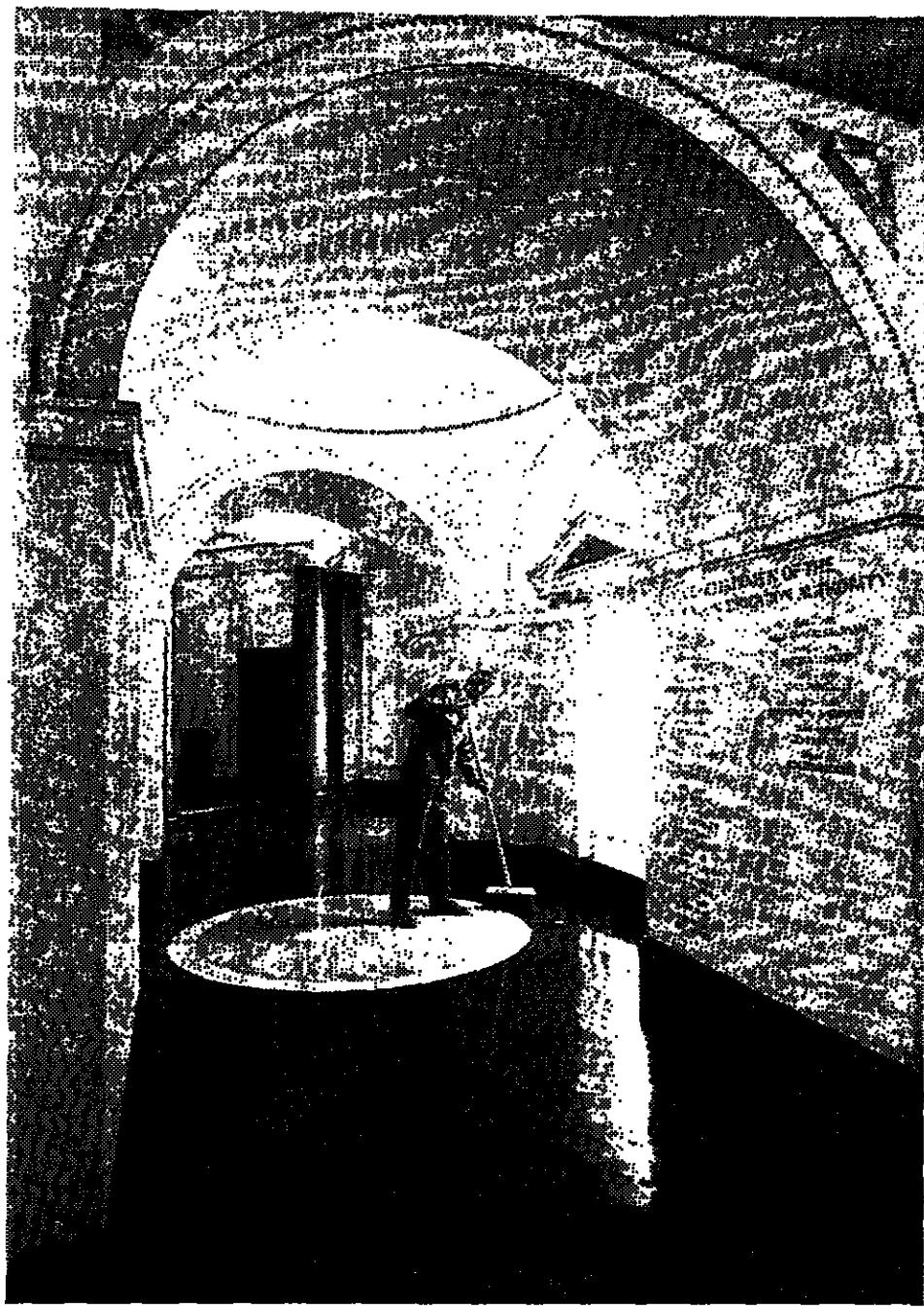
The second great uncertainty surrounds the building itself as the outcome of a public inquiry, the second on the future of County Hall, is awaited. The central problem for the developers is whether they can overcome the objection that the building is legally protected from being used for purposes other than local government.

Even if County Hall, nicknamed Heartbreak Hotel in Ilea's terminal months, is recruited to the tourist industry, there are doubts about its viability. During the next 10 years the area between Waterloo Station and the Thames is likely to live in a state of upheaval, with the construction of the Jubilee Line extension, the demolition of Elizabeth House and the development of access to the Channel Tunnel rail link.

Mr Fletcher and his colleagues still nurse the hope that the immense hulk will one day be resurrected as an administrative headquarters for education in London.

For the past year and a half not even the heat of Labour rhetoric has been able to melt the iceberg which looms today. Only time will tell whether it has the formula for turning pumpkins back into carriages.

Leading article, page 11
Letters, page 11



A cleaner taking care of final details as Ilea reluctantly vacates its vast premises

Dynamite firm fined for deaths in blast

A leading explosives company was fined £100,000 with £30,000 costs yesterday as a result of a massive blast at a dynamite factory in which two workers were killed.

The court was told that workers mixing explosives to make dynamite took short cuts in procedures.

A series of explosions hit the Cooke's Explosives Works at Penryn, Cornwall, North Wales, in June 1988. The mixing building was demolished and others wrecked.

Chess wins

All the favourites won their games in the first round of Britain's premier international junior chess tournament at Oakham School in Rutland. They included Michael Adams, the British champion from Truro, and David Norwood, of Bolton.

Derby remand

Lee Chapman, the Leeds United footballer, and Robert Huntley, 34, of Sheffield, were remanded on unconditional bail at Derby Magistrates' Court to June 15 for a committal hearing. They are accused of demanding £4,000 with menaces.

Ships ordered

Orders for three liquid gas carriers worth £40 million have been won by the Richard Dunston shipyard at Heston, near Hull. The Unigas consortium contract is the largest for a Humber shipyard.

Light fingers

Thieves stole a £15,000 life-sized bronze statue of a woman from the garden of a gallery at Stow-on-the-Wold, Gloucestershire. The statue by Faith Winter weighs ¾ of a tonne.

100 years

Mr Bob Nickerson, who was one of the few to survive the sinking of the Lusitania by a German submarine in 1915, celebrated his 100th birthday at Bacton, Norfolk, yesterday.

Tour campaign

A campaign to attract more visitors to the industrial valleys of South Wales has been launched by Mr Peter Walker, Secretary of State for Wales.

Pit closes

Donisthorpe Colliery, the last of 12 pits in South Derbyshire, closes today because of losses. Its 620 miners have been offered retirement or other jobs.

Motorists told of night sight hazards

By Michael Dynes
Transport Correspondent

AN estimated 10 million people in Britain are suffering from low-luminance myopia — more popularly but inaccurately known as "night blindness" — according to research carried out by Professor Paul Cook, a laser scientist at Brunel University.

The condition, which affects one person in five, encompasses two distinct ailments, twilight myopia, resulting in a marked reduction in visual perception in dim light and fog, and night myopia, resulting in reduced visual perception at night.

An article in the *Journal of Alternative & Complementary Medicine*, says that as most road accidents occur at twilight and during the winter months Professor Cook's findings have serious implications for millions of motorists.

"At twilight, some affected drivers do realize that they are seeing things slightly blurry, but as the night deepens, they begin to think that their vision has actually improved. Nothing could be further from the truth."

"This is a dangerous condition, especially for those whose livelihood depends on a great deal of night-time driving, such as long-distance lorry drivers and travelling salesmen," the article says.

Professor Cook believes that as many as one in five airline pilots could also suffer from this condition, pointing to the number of cases where pilots have mistaken a motorway for a runway in much the same way as motorists have mistaken house driveways for road junctions.

While doing his research Professor Cook developed a diagnostic device known as a Night Vision LaserSpec, which is capable of identifying the condition and rectifying it with a special pair of night-time lenses.

Motorists who suspect they suffer from one of these ailments have been advised that they may be driving outside the law, and are urged to have their day and night-time vision tested.

Thousands of nurses appeal over regrading

By Jill Sherman, Social Services Correspondent

A THOUSAND appeals a month are being referred to regional health authorities concerning nurses who claim they were unfairly regraded 18 months ago, the Royal College of Nursing said yesterday.

Miss Val Cowie, director of labour relations at the college, told its annual congress in Brighton that an estimated 11,500 cases were still outstanding at regional level, and that thousands more were being heard by districts.

An estimated 60,000 to 75,000 nurses out of the 450,000 nursing workforce have appealed against the grades they were given after the Government's clinical regrading exercise in September 1988, Miss Cowie said. Of these, about 20 per cent had been successful.

The National Association of Health Authorities estimates that districts have had to pay out £48 million to fund successful appeals, for which they have been given no extra central cash.

Miss Christine Hancock, the general secretary at the college, said this could be a factor leading to redundancies.

Although Mr Kenneth Clarke, Secretary of State for Health, said at the time that he expected all appeals to be heard by April 1989, Miss Cowie predicted yesterday the procedures would take at least another 18 months.

Figures collected by the

Royal College of Nursing show that 7,221 appeals were outstanding in England on December 31 last year, 821 in Scotland as of February 22 this year, 247 in Wales as of January this and 153 in Northern Ireland as of last week.

"Regions are now getting 1,000 appeals a month coming in, so a rough estimate of those now outstanding would be 11,500," she said.

Of the 2,122 regional appeals involving college members, only 46 results were in. Miss Cowie said nearly half had been upheld, five rejected and 22 were unresolved and would be referred to national level.

"Many regions are appalled at the prospect of having so many appeal cases and have not got the nerve to set the ball rolling."

A large proportion of the



Miss Cowie: "Regions get 1,000 appeals a month"

appeals concern enrolled nurses and staff nurses who have been graded on posts C and D or ward sisters who have been given grades F and G. Criteria for both these sets of grades were disputed when the exercise was carried out in 1988.

Yesterday delegates said nurse managers had, in many cases, colluded with employers in depressing grades. In several cases enrolled nurses were allegedly discriminated against in job selections and, where they were appointed, were put on lower pay scales.

Advertisements in nursing publications called for registered nurses on E grades or enrolled nurses on the lower D grade for the same job.

Delegates gave unanimous backing to a motion calling on the council of the Royal College of Nursing to review the implementation of the clinical grading structure and to "determine ways in which employing authorities can be persuaded to use the structure for the purpose for which it was designed, that is, to provide a clinical career structure."

Delegates later narrowly passed a motion calling on the Government to guarantee that all nurses were given a job for at least six months when they qualified. Thousands of newly qualified nurses had been unable to get work because health authorities had run out of money, the conference was told.

Split over spent convictions

NURSES yesterday shelved a decision on whether to press for a change in the law to allow nurses to conceal "spent" criminal convictions when they applied for jobs (Jill Sherman writes).

Nurses and other health professionals are not covered by the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974. Under the Act most former offenders are not required to admit their convictions if they are in prison for less than 30 months and the offence occurred between five or 10 years previously, depending on the crime.

Nursing staff who have been

convicted of criminal offences, however long ago and however trivial the offence, have to declare that when they are applying for posts.

Yet delegates were divided on whether the Act should be extended to cover nurses, arguing that while many nurses were being discriminated against unfairly it was also paramount that they upheld professional standards and that vulnerable people and children were protected.

In most cases the offences had no relation to the nurses' suitability to their jobs, delegates were told, yet nurses with criminal records had

often found it virtually impossible to get jobs. One nurse applied for 60 posts before the Royal College of Nursing intervened and enabled her to get work.

However Mr Alan Glasper, from the Society of Paediatric Nurses, said a senior nurse in a hospital had been convicted of child sex abuse and that type of crime should not be hidden.

Mr Doug Cronie, from Blackpool, said if a nurse had been tried and convicted, he or she should have to reveal it. Delegates decided to refer the motion to the college's council.

Snoring declared illegal nuisance

By Peter Davenport

THE snores of Mrs Florence Phillips, a widow aged 87, earned her an unwanted place in legal history yesterday when magistrates ruled that the nocturnal noises emanating from her bedroom contravened the Control of Pollution Act.

However, they rejected a claim for costs from Mr Basil Davies and his wife Sandra, who went to court to try to silence their neighbour.

Mrs Davies, aged 41, claimed that the snores that regularly rumbled up to their flat from that of Mrs Phillips below had caused a deterioration in the health of her 71-year-old husband, who suffered from a heart condition.

At a previous hearing, Mrs Davies had told Leeds magistrates that she had called a community constable and a doctor to try to restore harmony to their nights; but Mrs Phillips had refused to co-operate with any suggestions to improve matters.

Since then, the Davies's floor and Mrs

Phillips's ceiling had been soundproofed, the court was told yesterday.

Mr Andrew Saffman, representing Mrs Davies, of Sandringham Gardens, Alwoodley, Leeds, said the work had cost £1,500 and the cost had been split between the two flats.

Silence had returned after 18 months and his clients were able to enjoy a good night's sleep, Mr Saffman said; but the matter could have been resolved earlier.

He listed other examples to show that natural acts, such as snoring, could be legally deemed as a noise nuisance. They included, he said, the sound of a cock crowing at dawn and people playing the organ; but he confessed that, until now, he had not heard of a case of snoring being brought before the courts.

Mr Michael Lawrence, for Mrs Phillips, said her intermittent snoring was the consequence of a spinal condition which meant she had to wear a surgical collar.

He said: "Snoring is a natural phenomenon. We're told it's good for the

health, good for the heart, good for the blood pressure. We can't stop snoring. Nobody wants to snore but no one has found a way to stop it."

After a 40-minute adjournment, the magistrates ruled that a nuisance had been caused but decided not to award costs, which were said to be substantial.

After the hearing, Mr Lawrence said he was considering an appeal on a point of law. "This doesn't constitute an actionable nuisance and therefore the finding was wrong. It was a natural act," he said.

Mrs Phillips was not in court yesterday but her daughter, Valerie, who lives with her, said: "My mother's snoring doesn't worry me. Do I look like a woman who has sleepless nights?"

Mrs Davies, who said she and her neighbour were no longer on speaking terms, said after the case: "For the first time for a long time we have been able to get a good night's sleep. We have been completely vindicated. We have had to put up with this for a long time."

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PARLIAMENT

'Most despised' tax comes under Opposition fire

A bitter attack on the community charge and the Government's handling of rebates for those on income support was launched in the Commons by Mr Michael Meacher, chief Opposition spokesman on social security.

Moving amendment of proposed amendments to the community charge rebate system, including the Budget concession on capital limits, he said that the poll tax was the most despised tax that had been introduced in Britain in the past 600 years.

The regulations the Government was laying down showed that it was hell-bent on a campaign of self-destruction.

The great concession announced in the Budget was a giant political confidence trick. Conservative MPs who waved their Order Papers when the concession was announced were now faced with the cold reality of minimum relief that would disappoint and anger many pensioners.

Pensioners' expectations had been raised by the Budget but then dashed.

A Labour amendment to the Social Security Bill, that would have doubled the minimum threshold on which full rebates could be paid to couples, was rejected last night by more than 100 votes. That demonstrated that Conservative MPs were more concerned to prop up a Government that was on the ropes rather than protecting pensioners.

It was a bitter irony that the Tory Government, which introduced a new system two years ago to reduce spending on housing benefit and rate rebates,

THE POLL TAX

THE regulations implement the Chancellor's announcement on capital limits for income-related benefits. The capital cut-off point at which people no longer qualify for community charge and housing benefit is raised from £3,000 to £16,000. For those on income support and family credit, the capital they can still possess and yet benefit is raised from £6,000 to £8,000.

now found itself impaled on a device of its own making.

Every thrifty pensioner in the country felt insulted by the Government's handling of the poll tax rebates.

Mr Dennis Skinner (Bolsover, Lab) said that there was a remarkable leading article in *The Times* today, the newspaper which supported the Tory Party and the Prime Minister through and through, which canvassed the idea that the poll tax should be dropped, and a tax introduced that was based on property.

When support came from such strange quarters it meant that the poll tax was almost friendless.

Mr Meacher said that the Iron Lady, who was unable to turn, was committed to the abolition of the rates. The community charge was her tax and as long as she was there the tax would remain.

The Tories would love nothing more than to get rid of the poll tax. The truth was that the poll tax was going to get rid of them.

Labour welcomed the £4 million "Scottish embarrassment bonus" or "Rifkind face saver" but still wished to be certain that Scotland got a fair deal, exactly the same as England and Wales.

The central objection to these benefit regulations concerned the Government's proposal to deduct income support from those on the poverty line who failed to pay poll tax.

The average poll tax payer on income support in England and Wales would have to find £36 a year from their basic benefit. A couple would have to find almost £76. In 34 local authorities, couples on income support would be more than £2 a week worse off.

"The steady extortion of money from the poorest in society to subsidize the cost of the poll tax is the most repulsive aspect of this most repulsive tax."

Why was the Government so "gung ho" about pursuing the one million low-income families when it refused to take action against landlords who were making large sums by continuing to charge for rents without allowing for the fact they no longer paid rates.

This regulation to extract tiny amounts from the poorest of the most debt-ridden community was an abomination and should be rejected.

Mr Nicholas Scott, Minister for Social Security, said that if the Government was to help those most in need there must be a cut-off point. Any income above the first £3,000 of capital was ignored for benefit entitlement.

Labour, which was so critical of the Government, had operated a capital rule which came in at a lower level and then imposed a steeper tariff above it.

Doubling the capital limit for community charge would help 200,000 individuals, of whom 150,000 were pensioners. Some 65,000 couples would be helped.

Letters, page 11

'We would do same again'

GIVEN her time over again, Mrs Thatcher would still introduce the poll tax. In a question-time clash with Mr Neil Kinnock, she said the community charge was infinitely preferable to Labour's proposals.

Mr Kinnock, opening the exchanges, asked: If the Prime Minister had her time over again, would she still introduce poll tax?

Mrs Thatcher: Yes.

Mr Kinnock: I am very grateful for that reply. Can she tell us whether, if they had their time over again, Conservative MPs would vote for poll tax?

Mrs Thatcher: Yes. It is

infinitely preferable to rating revaluation, which would put a colossal burden on millions of people in a local government area, and infinitely preferable to the Labour roof tax and local income tax.

Mr Kinnock: She must be the last person in the country who believes all that claptrap.

Mrs Thatcher: Mr Kinnock keeps silent about his own policy. When he enunciates a policy it is blown sky-high.

Mr Kevin Barron (Rother Valley, Lab): Does she think it right that 42,000 student nurses on low incomes have to pay the full rate of poll tax?

Mrs Thatcher: Before long

most student nurses will be on Project 2000, paid a bursary and treated as ordinary students and therefore will pay only 20 per cent. In the meantime, there are some who are in receipt of a salary. They will be treated like all other trainees in receipt of a salary. If their salary is very low, they will be entitled to rebates.

Mr Anthony Beaman-Dark (Birmingham, Selby, Lab) said those who gained most did not recognize it as fair because it was not based on people's ability to pay.

Mrs Thatcher: Ability to pay is taken care of by most generous community charge rebates ever known.



Mr Bryan Gould, Labour's environment spokesman, receiving petitions against the poll tax from student nurses at the Commons yesterday

Iraqi Ambassador will not be expelled, Hurd tells MPs

THE Government has decided against expelling the Iraqi Ambassador or breaking off diplomatic relations with Iraq, Mr Douglas Hurd, the Foreign Secretary, told MPs.

Responding to questions from Mr Gerald Kaufman, chief Opposition spokesman on foreign affairs, about yesterday's decision to charge for rents without allowing for the fact they no longer paid rates.

Mr Hurd said that under the Non-Proliferation Treaty, nuclear suppliers undertook not to transfer nuclear devices or technology and the other parties undertook not to receive them.

The Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR), established in 1987 by the summit seven countries (G7), was intended to prevent the spread of technology which could be used to develop nuclear-capable missiles.

In Geneva, the Government was consulting urgently other parties in the Western group of the Non-Proliferation Treaty in order to find ways of minimizing the risk of evasion of the treaty. Britain was in the forefront of seeking to expand the membership of the regime and would urge her EC partners to join without delay.

The Soviet Union had similar controls which applied to missile technology and he hoped that it too would adhere to the MTCR guidelines.

Mr Hurd said that under the Non-Proliferation Treaty, nuclear suppliers undertook not to transfer nuclear devices or technology and the other parties undertook not to receive them.

Mr Kaufman congratulated those involved on the brilliant success of their operation. "The whole world owes them a debt for we have seen the prevention of a crime which would have menaced world security."

Why had the Foreign Office spokesman last night described the seizure of the

NUCLEAR TRIGGERS

detonators as only a criminal matter which had no bearing on Britain's relationship with Iraq?

Why then had the Foreign Office called in the Iraqi Ambassador? "Is it a matter of no concern to us that a regime such as that of Iraq has got so far along the road to building nuclear weapons?"

Why was the decision made to deport an Iraqi citizen especially at a time when in Iraq two British citizens were being held in wrongful imprisonment? Why had the man not been held and charged? Why had he been sent home to safety and, no doubt, applause?

Since this whole Iraqi operation had clearly been inspired at the highest level in Baghdad, had the Iraqi Embassy in London been involved? Why was the ambassador allowed to remain in London?

After the murder of Mr Farzad Bazoft, Labour had called for the expulsion of the Iraqi Ambassador. Was not this action more than ever appropriate now? Would the Government advise British citizens to leave Iraq in the interests of their own safety?

Would the Government place a ban on all technology exports to Iraq which could have any connection with nuclear or any other armaments? Would the Government reconsider its attitude to export credits?

Was not Iraq in breach of the Non-Proliferation Treaty of which it was an adherent? Would the Government use its powers under the treaty to go to Iraq to carry out an inspection?

The Government must take action on this matter with the utmost urgency because the maintenance of international stability and the threat to peace make this an issue of paramount importance.

Mr Hurd said that the Iraqi Ambassador

was called in so that the Government could explain its concern, the action being taken and the reasons for it.

The Home Secretary (Mr David Waddington) had decided to deport an Iraqi citizen because his presence was considered against the public interest.

"We have examined the question of the presence of the Iraqi Ambassador and of our diplomatic relations with Iraq. I can see considerable risk and damage by breaking off relations and not advantages."

"I do not want to get into a position where we not only leave our citizens, including our two prisoners, without protection but where we do not actually have an embassy in the Middle East between the Khyber Pass and the Mediterranean. We have two empty embassies in two important Middle Eastern countries. I do not want to add to that number unless there is a clear advantage in doing so."

Mr Menzies Campbell, Liberal Democrat spokesman on defence and disarmament, said that given the continuing unrest in the Middle East now was the time to launch a substantial new initiative.

Mr Michael Jopling (Westmorland and Lonsdale, C) said that the most worrying aspect of the affair was that the security arrangements were so sloppy that people such as the Iraqis could get their hands on such equipment.

Mr Hurd said that the episode demonstrated that there had been vigorous co-operation which worked.

Mr Peter Shore (Bethnal Green and Stepney, Lab) asked what the episode told the Government about the advance of the Iraqis towards producing nuclear devices.

Mr Hurd said that the specification of the confiscated material suggested that they were intended for use in the trigger mechanism of a nuclear warhead. However, it did not follow that all of the other necessary pieces were in place. No such deduction could be drawn.

Study of letters ordered

The Prime Minister has ordered an inter-departmental study by the Government's Efficiency Unit into methods and costs of handling correspondence between MPs and ministers, and between government officials and the public.

Mrs Thatcher said in a written reply that there are nearly 250,000 replies a year from ministers to MPs, and several million at official level to letters from the public.

The unit will seek the views of MPs and others who receive replies, so as to identify good methods of operation and recommend them for operation by all departments.

Departmental performance would be monitored and a minister in each department would be given responsibility for overseeing progress. In appropriate cases, MPs would be encouraged to write in the first instance to Civil Services agencies, or to local offices directly concerned.

Proposals for Hong Kong

The Government intends to publish its proposals for legislation on the provision of United Kingdom passports for certain Hong Kong citizens soon, Mrs Thatcher said in a written reply.

The Bill is down for second reading on April 19.

Parliament next week

The main business in the House of Commons next week is expected to be: Monday: Human Fertilisation and Embryology Bill, second reading. Tuesday: Social Security Bill, conclusion of remaining stages. Wednesday: Education (Student Loans) Bill, Lords amendments. Thursday: Easter adjournment debates.

The main business in the House of Lords is expected to be: Monday: Law Reform (Miscellaneous Provisions) (Scotland) Bill, committee, fourth day. Tuesday: National Health Service and Community Care Bill, second reading. Wednesday: Debate on inner cities.

Thursday: Aviation and Maritime Security Bill, second reading.

Parliament today

Commons (9.30): Private members' Bill: Consumer Guarantees Bill, remaining stages.

Correction During Wednesday's debate on the House of Fraser Lord Jenkins of Hillhead should have been reported as saying that society was awash with money, not much as printed yesterday.

Thatcher denounces 'TV trial'

THE rule of law would be ended in Britain if ever trial by television took over, Mrs Thatcher said during question-time exchanges about the Birmingham Six and a television programme on Wednesday evening. She rejected a call from a Northern Ireland MP for an independent inquiry into the whole affair.

Mr John Hume (Foyle, SDLP) said overwhelming evidence was now emerging and deep concern was being expressed by national figures in this country and abroad.

Mrs Thatcher said that any new evidence should be given to the police.

It was for the prosecuting authorities and the Home Secretary to decide whether there was any need for further action. "We should not let our emotions run away with us either. This is a matter of evidence before the courts and not of feelings."

Mr Christopher Mullin (Sunderland South, Lab) said that the Prime Minister's press secretary had briefed the press that no new developments had occurred in the past few days. The Home Secretary should make a statement.

Mrs Thatcher: No. A television programme alters nothing. We do not have trial by television and the day we do, the rule of law will leave this country for good.

Republic 'is safe for terrorists'

N IRELAND

THE Republic of Ireland was a safe haven for terrorists and that seriously undermined the Anglo-Irish agreement, Mr Andrew Hunter (Basingstoke, C) said during Commons questions.

He was criticizing the outcome of the extradition cases involving Dermot Finucane and James Clarke, and asked Mr Peter Brooke, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, if he agreed that the South was a safe haven in the light of those cases.

Mr Hunter said that it would be better to negotiate and come to agreement with Ulster Unionists rather than "a Government which appears to support terrorism".

Mr Brooke said that the Prime Minister had made clear at the time of the extradition judgements that they might give the impression to some that terrorists would have a safe haven in the Republic.

The Anglo-Irish agreement continued to be a serviceable instrument to discuss these matters.

Mr Kenneth Maginnis (Fermanagh and South Tyrone, DUP) asked Mr Brooke to protest at the judgement by the Supreme Court in so far as they had ruled that exemption from extradition should apply "to persons charged with politically motivated offences when the objective of such offences is to secure the ultimate unity of the country".

He added: That amounts to a mandate for terrorist warfare against the unionist community in Northern Ireland being enshrined within the legal interpretation of the Irish Republic's Extradition Act, 1965.

Mr Brooke said that the Irish Government had actually been acting on Britain's behalf in the Supreme Court case and had been "as anxious as we were to get a satisfactory solution".

Mr Kevin McNamara, chief Opposition spokesman on Northern Ireland, said that the overriding concern must be to ensure that offenders were brought to justice, not necessarily where they were brought to justice.

40 years it was time for action. The former Servicemen had served their country loyally and were now suffering physically and financially. "Public opinion is on the side of those who took part in the tests. They should be given the benefit of the doubt."

Earlier, Mr Robert Clay (Sunderland North, Lab), moving the amendment, said that it was modelled on similar legislation passed in the United States. It could be argued that there would be a presumption that automatic compensation would be granted to people who were suffering, even if it was not as a result of participation in the tests.

But there was nothing that could be done about that. It was better to compensate those who may have leukaemia or cancer from some other reason than not to compensate those who had it as a result of service.

These people had served their country. To people like him who opposed nuclear weapons it was horrific that they had

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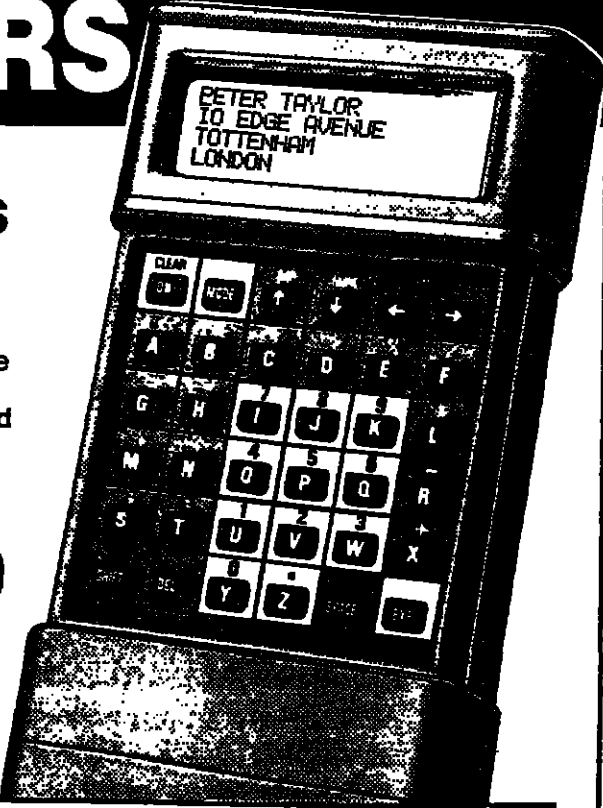
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Pretoria gears up for ANC talks despite violence

From Gavin Bell, Johannesburg

THE South African Government, pressing ahead with plans for sweeping political reforms despite the increasing violence, yesterday named a nine-man ministerial team for preliminary talks with the ANC in Cape Town next week.

But Dr Gerrit Viljoen, the Minister of Constitutional Development, said the Government was also determined to employ all means at its disposal to quell the strife in black townships and tribal homelands which could sabotage the transition to a post-apartheid society.

Police yesterday reported that 32 people had been killed and 19 injured, including 10 policemen and a train driver, in township clashes during the preceding 24 hours.

President de Klerk, Mr R. F. "Wink" Botha, the Foreign Minister, and Mr Viljoen are the senior members of the Cabinet team. General Magnus Malan, the Defence Minister, who was under attack recently over allegations that he may have authorized defence force hit squads, was not included.

Dr Viljoen said the sole purpose of the meeting with ANC leaders was to remove perceived obstacles to broader negotiations on a new constitution. The ANC has insisted that the state of emergency must be lifted and all political prisoners released.

Future negotiations should be as extensive and inclusive as possible, and be open to all political parties with proven substantial support, Dr Viljoen said. "The first stage is to gain maximum agreement, if not unanimity, as to who should be there and how it

should function. The days of unilateral solutions are over." The Government had not finalized its constitutional proposals, but it would come to the negotiating table with definite ideas. Dr Viljoen said one model under consideration was a bicameral parliament, which would ensure the protection of minorities.

The first House would be elected on the basis of one person, one vote, regardless of race. The second would represent racial groups and geographical regions and would have the power to block legislation on important issues affecting minorities.

The second chamber would also need to guarantee regular elections, safeguard the economic system and protect a Bill of Rights.

Dr Viljoen called on all parties to abandon violence, which he said undermined the negotiation process.

Before meeting the ANC, President de Klerk will confer next Thursday with the leaders of the three Houses of Parliament, and six autonomous homelands.

The separate conferences represent a two-pronged approach to negotiations, in which politicians working within government structures and those outside the parliamentary system are consulted. Mr de Klerk said that leaders operating in the present system were assured a place at the negotiating table.

"The discussions next Thursday acknowledge the position of these leaders in this process. Through their participation, they have made an important contribution."

The participants will include Chief Buthekezi, in his

capacity as Chief Minister of the KwaZulu homeland. As leader of the conservative Zulu Inkatha organization, Chief Buthekezi is embroiled in a bloody conflict with allies of the ANC which has brought townships in Natal to the brink of civil war.

Next week's talks will include the leaders of the other five "self-governing" tribal territories, and the chairmen of the white, coloured (mixed race) and Indian Houses of Parliament. It will be the first time the nine men, all elected leaders of constitutional bodies as well as political parties, have been called together to discuss the country's future.

The economy is an important issue in what are expected to be long and difficult negotiations, with the ANC insisting on nationalizing key sectors and condemning moves by the Government to divest state enterprises.

As politicians prepared to negotiate, thousands of black public sector workers demonstrated yesterday in Johannesburg, Pretoria and Port Elizabeth against Government privatization policies.

With the exception of the capital, where police dispersed a large crowd with tear gas, there was no serious incident.

● Pretoria's team: The other members of the Government's negotiating team are Mr Dawie de Villiers, Mineral and Energy Affairs Minister, Mr Kobie Coetsee, Justice Minister, Mr Barend du Plessis, Finance Minister, Mr Adrian Vlok, Law and Order Minister, Mr Stoffel van der Merwe, Education Minister, and Mr Roelf Meyer, Deputy Constitutional Development Minister.

Death penalty bandwagon rolls in US

From Martin Fletcher, Washington

NEXT Tuesday at the unceremonious hour of 3.00am, Robert Alton Harris is to leave his cell in San Francisco's San Quentin Prison and walk a few hundred yards to his death.

Wearing jeans and a denim shirt, he will be strapped unresisted into a chair inside a green-painted steel chamber preparatory to becoming the first person executed in California since 1967.

One of eight volunteer executioners from among the prison guards, adhering to a procedure rehearsed over the previous few days, will drop a pill into a bucket of sulphuric acid at Harris's feet.

Within seconds of inhaling the sodium cyanide gas thus generated, Harris will be unconscious. In 10 minutes he will be dead.

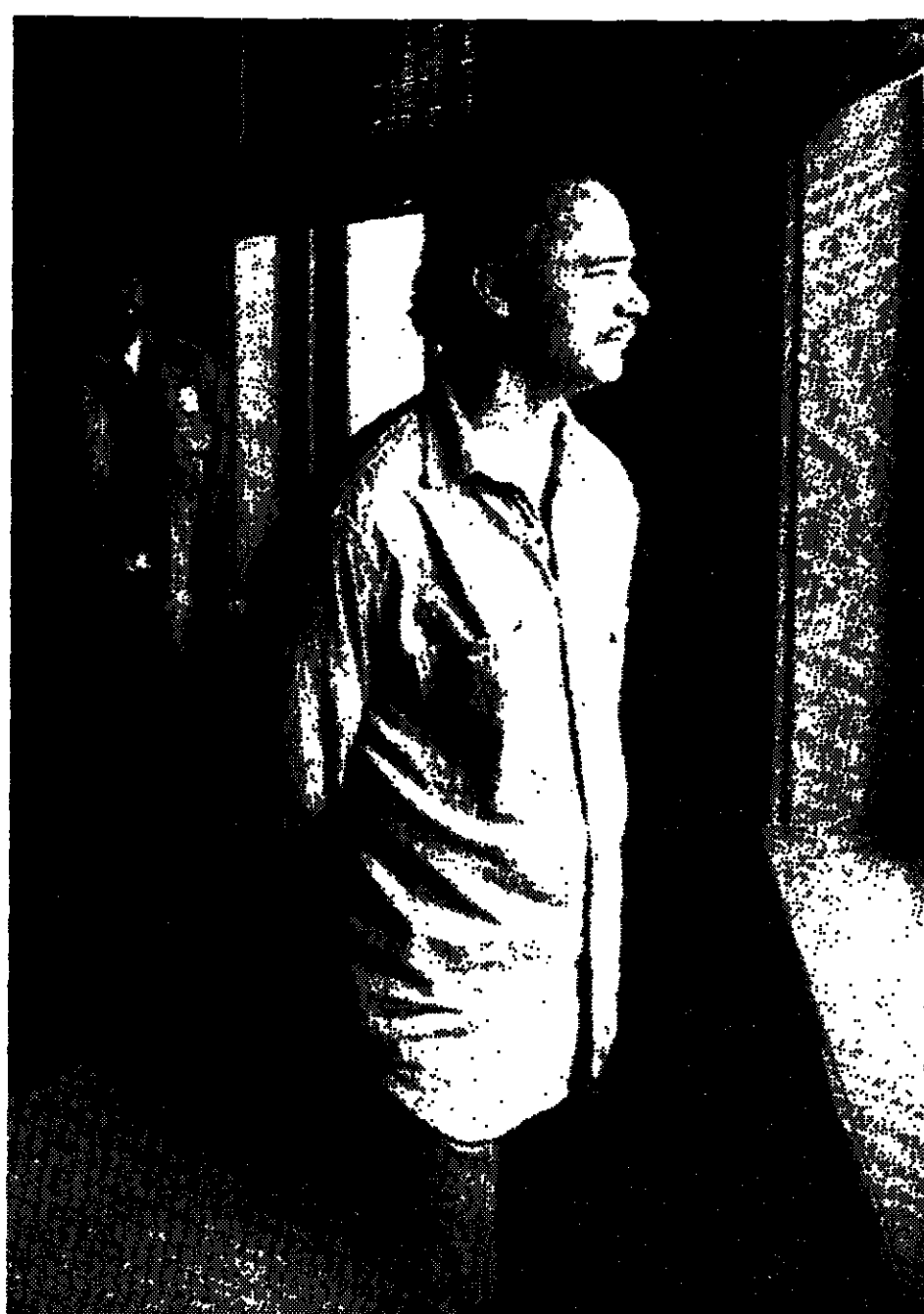
Fourteen journalists selected to witness the execution will then go directly to a press conference and tell what they saw to 125 other reporters chosen from more than 300 applicants. The conference will be broadcast live by almost every big American television network.

After a nineteenth appeal against his execution failed yesterday, one of Harris's lawyers said another would be lodged immediately. If that failed, the lawyer said, they would go to the Supreme Court in Washington, which has rejected four of Harris's appeals already.

Harris, aged 37, is about the best argument for capital punishment that its protagonists could hope to find. On July 5, 1978, recently freed from prison for beating a man to death, he and his brother were looking for a car with which to rob a San Diego bank.

Robert Harris saw two teenage boys parking outside a fast food restaurant, forced them to drive to a reservoir nearby and there butchered them. Before leaving the scene he ate their unfinished hamburgers.

Harris, however, is also a victim. No matter that elsewhere in the world, in countries as diverse as Romania, Haiti and Namibia, the trend is firmly away from the death penalty, ambitious American politicians, realizing its enormous popular appeal in a land paranoid about crime, have begun shamelessly to cast



Robert Harris, due next week to become the first person executed in California since 1967, gazes from the window of the building that houses the gas chamber

aside their personal reservations and are striving almost ghoulishly to prove the depth of their commitment to capital punishment.

Democrats are particularly guilty. They saw Mr George Bush, now the Republican President, destroy Mr Michael Dukakis, the Democrats' runner, in the last presidential campaign by accusing him of being a "soft-on-crime liberal". Now, by enthusiastically embracing capital punish-

ment, they find they can simultaneously blunt Republican attacks and win mainstream support.

This month's Democratic primary for Governor of Texas deteriorated into a grotesque contest, with former Governor Mark White's advertisements showing him parading in front of photographs of all the criminals he has sent to the electric chair.

Jim Mattox, the state's Attorney-General, responded

with advertisements boasting that he had personally attended 32 state executions. Mrs Ann Richards, the State Treasurer, said she supported the death penalty, but suffered the misfortune of being endorsed by a newspaper produced by inmates of Texas's death row.

In the Florida campaign, Governor Bob Martinez, a Republican, is claiming credit for signing 90 death warrants and his advertisements focus

on the most prominent of those 90, Ted Bundy, the mass-killer who was executed last year.

Even Mr Andrew Young, a Democrat and former Mayor of Atlanta who is an advocate of non-violence, has dropped his opposition to capital punishment in his bid to become Georgia's first black Governor. "The state has to have the right to put mad dogs to death," he says.

The starkest example of the issue's potency, however, is back in California, where Mrs Dianne Feinstein, the former Mayor of San Francisco and now would-be Democrat candidate for Governor, has dramatically revived an almost moribund primary campaign with an advertising blitz based on her support for both the death penalty and abortion rights.

Her rival for the party nomination, Mr John Van de Kamp, the Attorney-General, has hit back with advertisements actually showing the gas chamber and boasting of how many prisoners he has sent to death row.

When Robert Harris first appealed for clemency, Governor George Deukmejian, the outgoing Republican incumbent, announced that he would conduct the hearing himself, thereby denying that role with all its attendant publicity to Mr Van de Kamp.

Governor Deukmejian responded to a personal plea for clemency from Mother Teresa of Calcutta, the Nobel Peace Prize winner, by saying that Californians, in referendums, had twice approved the death penalty and he had sworn to uphold the law.

In California there is now "almost a mob attitude... a frenzy being fed by politicians", says Mr Robert Bryan, chairman of the National Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty.

Experts believe, if Harris is executed there will be two far-reaching consequences.

First, the life expectancy of the 277 other prisoners on California's death row will be dramatically shortened and, second, it could inspire a glut of executions right across the US. There have been 121 since the Supreme Court pronounced the death penalty constitutional in 1976, far and away most of them in the four southern states of Texas, Florida, Louisiana and Georgia.

'Possessed' mother was burnt alive

Papeete

One of the 24 villagers from the Polynesian atoll of Faaité, on trial here for murdering six people in a religious frenzy, told the court: "I threw my mother into the flames and I cried 'Be gone Satan'. It's true I was laughing as I did so."

Mr Tavita Tapi, whose mother and five other villagers accused of being possessed by the devil were put to death in September 1987, said: "I was fond of my mother but, when I threw her into the fire, I didn't think it was my mother... Now I realize it was my mother but I still think she was possessed."

The killings occurred after three itinerant women preachers visited the island to urge the inhabitants in fiery sermons to root out Satan from their midst.

(AFP)

Lebanon talks on hostages

West Beirut — The brother of President Rafsanjani of Iran has secretly visited Lebanon in an effort to negotiate the release of 18 Western hostages, including three Britons, held by Muslim militants here, according to the Christian *al-Dustur* newspaper (A Correspondent writes).

The newspaper, which has close links to Syria, said Mr Mahmoud Rafsanjani, who handles Middle East affairs at the Iranian Foreign Ministry, met leaders of Hezbollah (the Party of God), the group which is believed to be holding the captives.

Glasnost aids the gold rush

Moscow — Forty Soviet goldminers are to begin prospecting in Alaska next month, in the first joint Soviet-American venture surrounding the Bering Strait (Michael Binyon writes).

The miners were chosen because it will be much cheaper for the Bering Strait Trading Company to employ them than to take on qualified Americans.

Hawke holds on for fourth term

From Robert Cockburn, Sydney

THE re-election of Mr Bob Hawke's Labor Government in Australia was finally confirmed yesterday as Mr Andrew Peacock conceded defeat and promptly resigned his leadership of the opposition Liberal Party. Victory by as many as eight seats comes five days after polling.

The parties face some drastic changes. After the closest election in 30 years, the Liberals immediately set about the task of finding a new leader to rebuild a badly fractured party entering its fourth consecutive term on the opposition benches.

Endorsed by Mr Peacock, Dr John Hewson, the shadow Treasurer, is seen as his most likely successor. Dr Hewson, the rather staid architect of Liberal economic policy, caused some surprise by later asking Mr Peacock to stand as his deputy. There will undoubtedly be rival challenges to lead the party out of its acrimonious disarray.

Mr Hawke's historic fourth term in office is tainted by the same disenchantment which saw both main parties rebuffed at the polls. The electorate found their leaders and policies frustratingly similar and uninspired.

Disapproval was registered with a record vote for the emerging Democratic and independent movements.

The Labor victory, and indeed Mr Hawke's own seat of Wills, in Melbourne, was secured only after electorate preferences were redistributed under the system of proportional representation. At one stage, everything seemed to hang on an isolated Queensland constituency where voters were still cut off by early wet-season floods.

In the all-important lower House of Representatives, Labor can now expect 78 seats and the Liberal-National Coalition 69. One seat goes to an independent.

Like the Liberals, Labor is conducting a rigorous review of the policies and personnel

which nearly cost the party the election. Yesterday's victory was announced in a brief statement, without the customary press conference, at a sensitive time. Public rows have broken out between the Environment and Industry Ministers, and significant changes are expected in Mr Hawke's new Cabinet.

There were calls yesterday for the resignation of Mr Kim Beazley, the Defence Minister, who is caught up in a controversy about the United States' use of military intelligence gained in Australia.

Mr Peacock is the first Liberal Party leader to lose two federal elections (the other was to Mr Hawke in 1984) and his resignation came as no surprise. This was the Liberals' best chance to win power, with voters complaining bitterly of the economic hardships brought by six years of Labor rule.

Mr Peacock blames this latest election failure on his coalition partners in the right-wing National Party, whose poor showing raises the question of its survival.

Mr Charles Blunt, the relatively new National leader, still faces possible defeat by Miss Helen Caldicott, the independent Labor candidate, in the New South Wales constituency of Richmond.

A merger of the Liberals and National Party has been mooted to maintain the broad support of conservatives.

Mr Peacock, always a political lightweight assuming a playboy image throughout his 24 years in Parliament, was dogged by suspicion since his controversial ousting of Mr John Howard from the Liberal leadership last year.

Many feel Mr Howard would have stood a better chance against Mr Hawke and he may yet announce a challenge to regain control of the party. It is, however, widely felt that the Liberals are in desperate need of a fresh young leader untouched by the fatal fighting.

Safety record of Airbus subjected to fresh attack

From Philip Jacobson, Paris

THE safety record of the sophisticated Airbus A320 passenger jet, operated extensively by British Airways and Air France, has again come under attack.

A report in *Science et Vie*, a French magazine, claims that the number of "technical incidents" recorded in the first full year of operation of the aircraft, which incorporates the world's most advanced computerized flight systems, was 12 times above an acceptable level.

According to the magazine, which headlined the story "The crisis of nerves of the A320", the model's two fatal crashes — at Habsheim in eastern France in June 1988, when three died, and last month at Bangalore, where the toll was 90 — must bring its airworthiness into question.

After listing a series of potentially serious incidents since the aircraft came into service, including one on the inaugural flight that carried M Jacques Chirac, then the Prime Minister of France across Paris, it concludes that the worst implications concern "the reliability of data the crew receive from the various computer systems".

As reported last month, the Bangalore crash revived the fears of French airline pilots that the A320's technology could "trap" them into potentially disastrous errors.

Using extracts from official documents to bolster its case, *Science et Vie* focuses on "the most pressing problem", which is said to involve

malfunctions of the altitude-regulating system.

It also points out that the original certification of the A320 by civil air safety authorities was complicated by the "fly-by-wire" technology. "Since nobody had foreseen such rapid introduction of computerization aboard passenger aircraft... it was impossible to utilize the norms of international regulation then applicable," it says.

Airbus Industrie, the Toulouse-based manufacturing consortium, intimated yesterday that the *Science et Vie* article was based largely on "unfounded" claims previously made by the pilot unions. The aircraft's design and technology had been absolved of responsibility for either of the crashes, the company said.

Air France's decision not to emulate India in immediately grounding all A320s until the accident report verdict is in has also drawn criticism from French airline pilot unions.

Air France stuck to its line that new aircraft frequently experience technical problems and the A320 was no worse than the Boeing 747 after its introduction.

● DELHI: The Indian Government filed preliminary charges yesterday against four former civil aviation and Indian Airlines officials, alleging that unnamed people acting for Airbus Industrie paid kickbacks to clinch the 1986 contract for Indian Airlines to purchase 38 A320s for a total of about \$1.5 billion (£950 million). (AP)

One in 40 Thais face risk of Aids

By Thomson Prentice, Science Correspondent

GOVERNMENTS which turn a blind eye to the threat of Aids are today offered daunting evidence of the consequences in a report in *The Lancet*, Britain's leading medical research journal.

The report shows how the epidemic has ravaged Thailand, whose officials once used to comfort themselves with "it won't happen here".

Three years ago, only 10 people in Thailand were known to be infected with the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV). Today it has spread to almost 15,000, and a World Health Organization expert says the true figure could be nearer 300,000.

According to Dr Mechai Viravaidya, of the WHO Global Commission on Aids, more than 1.5 million Thais, about one in forty of the population of 54 million, will have been infected by 1995.

An epidemic, which the Thai Government believes probably began with a homosexual tourist's visit to one of Bangkok's gay bars in 1984, has spread through the capital's warren of brothels and massage parlours to remote rural corners of the country.

Its dissemination has been assisted by needle-sharing and sexual contact among the country's estimated 100,000 drug-abusers and 500,000 female prostitutes, most of whom live in near-poverty. It now affects peasants and their families, civil servants, students and housewives.

Jibril terrorists in disarray as the old ideology palls

From Christopher Walker, Damascus

THE Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command, the Damascus-based terrorist group that is widely held responsible for masterminding the Lockerbie bombing, is in severe organizational and financial difficulties, according to senior Western sources who have met disaffected members recently.

The internal disarray is reported to have undermined the organization's ability to launch any more sophisticated attacks, such as that in December, 1988, which brought down a Pan Am jumbo jet, killing 270 people. It arises from growing discontent with Ahmed Jibril, the group's founder, a moustachioed former Syrian army officer now regarded by many younger Palestinians as outdated in his approach.

"One root of the trouble is ideological. Jibril is a dyed-in-the-wool Marxist-Leninist, who has shown no ability to respond to the recent winds of change from Eastern Europe," said one source. "Many of his followers now aspire to a Palestinian state which would have a multi-party system and a free-market economy rather than the centralized, Soviet model Jibril still dreams of."

Founded more than 20 years ago with its roots firmly in the extreme left-wing Syrian Baath Socialist Party, the group is believed to have between 800 and 1,000 members, mainly concentrated in Syria and in training camps situated in Syrian-controlled parts of Lebanon, such as the Bekaa Valley.

Along with the Fatah Revolutionary Council, the breakaway group led by Abu Nidal, which is also undergoing serious internal problems at its base in Libya, the PFLP-GC is regarded by Western intelligence as one of the most experienced in international terrorism.

It is credited with having attacked a Swissair flight to Tel Aviv in 1972 and is linked with the explosion of a DC10 airliner in Nigeria in September, 1989. The group also organized the spectacular hang-glider attack on northern Israel in 1988 which helped spark the Palestinian intifada.

The Western source said that the ideological differences had led to feuds at the two heavily guarded offices occupied by the group in Damascus and attempts to dislodge Jibril from the leadership. But

Jibril, aged 53, a disciplinarian known for military efficiency rather than any depth of political thought, has shown no inclination for change.

The new differences inside the organization, which has always fervently denied any links with the attack on Pan Am Flight 103, have coincided with difficulties in funding and the closer ties formed by Syria, its chief backer, with Egypt, a moderate Arab state, whose leader, President Mubarak, is known as a bitter opponent of Jibril's style of operation.

The source claimed that the Libyan leader, Colonel Gaddafi, had reneged on several large cash payments once promised to the PFLP-GC, including money for its fighters who provided the Libyan Army with a second line of defence during its desert war with Chad.

The Libyan leader's recent reluctance to fund Palestinian and other terrorist groups also coincided with improved ties with Egypt.

Last October, President Mubarak bluntly told the Libyans that improved relations with Cairo depended on abandoning previous support for terrorism.

The improvement in links between moderate and radical Arab states came last weekend when the leaders of Egypt, North Yemen, Syria and Libya met in the Libyan town of Tobruk. It was the first meeting between President Mubarak and President Assad of Syria since diplomatic ties were resumed.

Visitors to the PFLP-GC headquarters in Damascus have noticed that they show signs of a shortage of funds. Similar problems have hit a number of the Palestinian groups since the decision of Mr Yasir Arafat, the leader of the mainstream Palestine Liberation Organization, to pursue a new path of moderation.

According to the Western source, Jibril has made a number of trips to Tehran recently in an attempt to boost his group's diminishing funds, but without success.

"Jibril's fortunes are at a low ebb at present, much worse than they have been for some time," the source said. "The combination of the changes inside the Palestinian movement, in Eastern Europe, and in the Kremlin's international approach have made him look very much like yesterday's man."

Dust blown off Hemingway epitaph to love triangle

From James Bone, New York

A PROFESSOR of English who deciphered a handwritten manuscript, criss-crossed with revisions, in a Boston library claims to have found Ernest Hemingway's last short story.

Set in Paris, it is a semi-autobiographical tale about a writer who throws away his marriage for another relationship. The title is taken from the first five words of the 31-page text: "Philip Haines was a Writer". Professor Donald Junkins, of the University of Massachusetts, unearthed the manuscript among papers given by Mary Hemingway, the writer's fourth wife, to the John F. Kennedy Library in Boston. He said: "It's very exciting. I am positive that it's his last short story."

The material dates from around

1959, two years before the Nobel Prize-winning author killed himself with a shotgun in Idaho. But it refers back to the 1925-26 period when Hemingway was living in Paris as a young writer, an era he immortalized in *A Moveable Feast*.

At the time, Hemingway was leaving his first wife, Hadley, for the woman who was to become his second, Pauline. Pauline had left Paris for the United States to wait for Hemingway's divorce to come through and he found himself alone.

In the short story, the Hemingway character is Philip Haines. "Clearly, the thing is based on the triangle with Hadley and Pauline," said Professor Junkins. But there is, of course, a twist. He found two manuscripts in the collection of thousands of Hemingway's personal papers that Mary donated to the Kennedy

Library in 1980. One, classified as document 648B, contains the beginnings of a novel that Hemingway later abandoned. The second — 648A, but the later version — is the short story based on the same plot.

The two texts give an insight into Hemingway's creative process. Professor Junkins said. Instead of writing the short story as preparation for the novel, Hemingway actually turned a failed novel into a successful short story.

The tension in the abandoned novel derived from the fact that the lover, called Dorothy Rogers (or Rodgers — it is split both ways in the text), the rough equivalent to Hemingway's second wife, refused to come back to Paris. Philip Haines, the writer, meets his former wife, Harriet, and even has sex with her. But in the short story, the sex is

dropped, and Philip confers with a lawyer about his divorce — and his lover, Dorothy, comes back.

The tale ends on a note of irony, with Philip meeting Dorothy on the docks at Le Havre, anticipating the beginning of a whole new relationship. But readers know that, because of a letter he fired off to her during her absence from Paris, the affair is doomed. In real life, Hemingway married Pauline and they went to live in Key West, Florida.

"The whole thing is written in a light, satirical, playful, tongue-in-cheek way," said the professor. "It's self-parody. It is more a comedy than a tragedy. If it were autobiographical, Hemingway would be playing very hard on himself." The story is in the April issue of *The Hemingway Review*, published by Ohio Northern University.



Hemingway: His failed novel became a short-story success

Shooting claims by Army raise Lithuania stakes

From Anatol Liven, Vilnius

THE Soviet Army has alleged a shooting attack on soldiers and military property in Lithuania for the third time in a week.

Lieutenant-Colonel Vladimir Zabaravskas, the senior police officer who is Lithuanian Deputy Interior Minister, said yesterday that at 1.30 am on Wednesday the Soviet Army in the town of Varena, 50 miles south of Vilnius, reported that two shots had been fired at a military storehouse from a white car.

According to Colonel Zabaravskas, the next morning a second Soviet officer reported that four shots had been fired from a red car.

Colonel Zabaravskas said: "This is probably going to be the last time tonight" — a reference to the main Soviet television news programme which has been a channel for attacks on the Lithuanian Government.

Tass has also been reporting attacks on Soviet troops in recent days. This has raised fears of a military intervention to justify military intervention, Mr Valerijonas Sadreyka, a parliamentary deputy, said: "This was the strategy they adopted when they annexed us in 1940."

The alleged incident in Varena follows the handing to the Lithuanian Government of a Soviet document signed by Colonel V. Ushchepchik, the commander of the Vilnius garrison. The document alleges two previous shootings on March 23, in which there were no casualties, several incidents in which rocks were thrown and an alleged attempt to break into a weapon store.

Other complaints in the document include the registration of volunteers for "an army of national defence". The document alleges: "Various types of weapons are being sold secretly in the city market places." It speaks of "machine guns, sub-machine guns and rifles", and gives the price for a sub-machine gun as 1,500 rubles (£150). It says deserters are being protected and foreign correspondents and traffic police are "observing barracks and the movement of the Army".

Colonel Ushchepchik's letter concludes: "I demand that you instruct the Lithuanian Soviet Socialist Republic Ministry for Internal Affairs to answer for all these unlawful hooligan actions and not to permit anything similar in the future."

Despite the menacing tone, tension has fallen in Vilnius. The alleged incidents are too small to provide a credible pretext for military action, and it would take time to create incidents on the necessary scale.

Most deputies feel that the allegations are simply further psychological pressure. No further big anti-independence demonstrations are known to be planned after the rather unsuccessful rally of Soviet loyalists outside parliament on Tuesday.

Tension has also fallen with the military confining its actions this week to two fields: the dispute about property between the two successor parties of the former Soviet Lithuanian Communist Party, and deserters.

If the Soviet intention is to press further along these lines, then the main printing house in Vilnius, owned by the Communist Party, will probably be taken over shortly.

The property dispute between the two Communist parties hinges on the argument from the Lithuanian party, led by Mr Algirdas Brazauskas, that since a majority of the party voted to split from the Soviet Communist Party, the independent party is now the legal owner of the properties. The much smaller Soviet

Communist Party in Lithuania maintains that the properties were in the name of the Soviet party as a whole and that natural justice demands they should have a share.

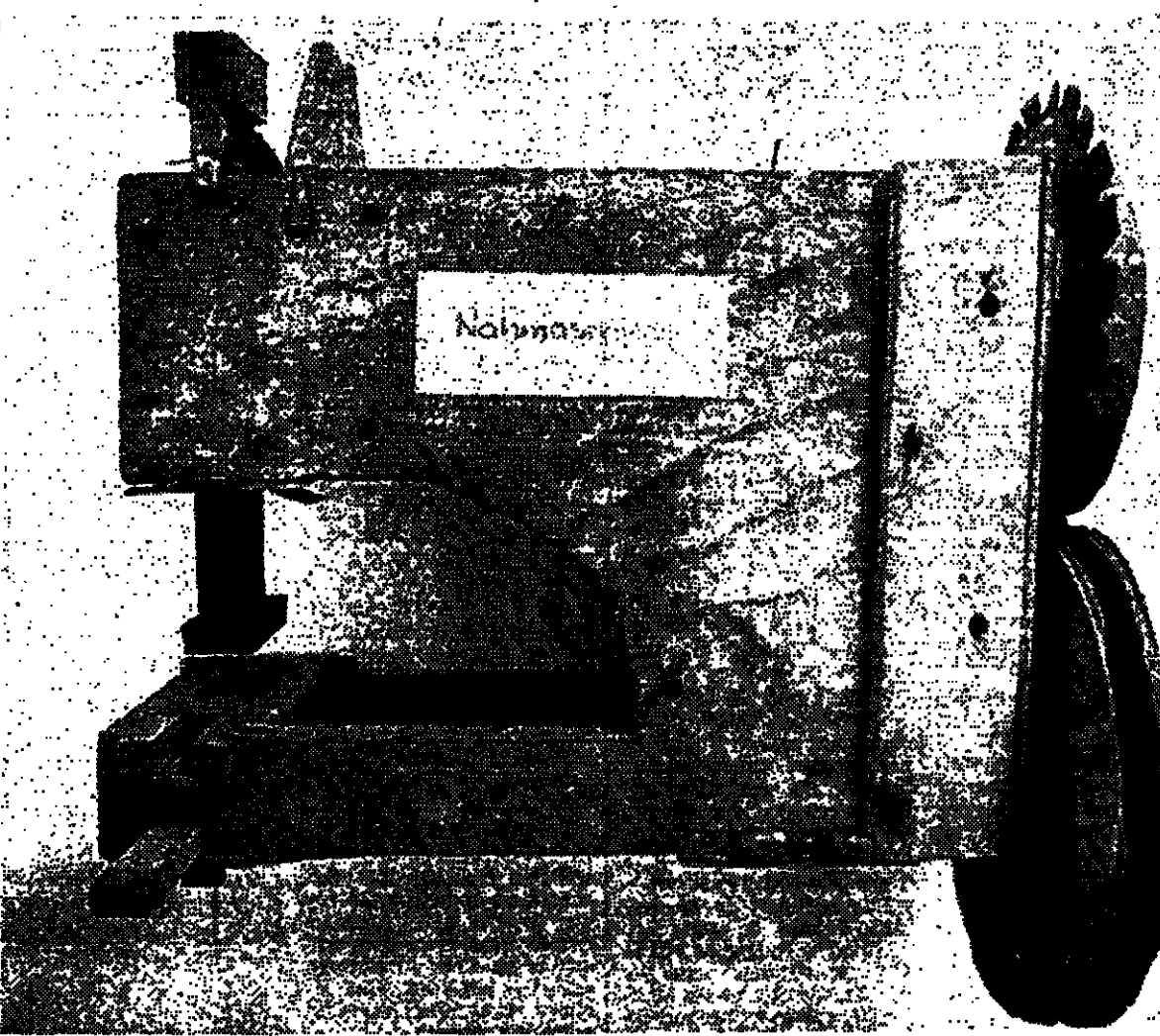
They have been careful not to try to seize control of all the Communist offices in Vilnius or the whole building of the Central Committee, occupying only those offices which were rendered useless by the loss of membership in the party and which the Lithuanian Communist Party had given, or had been proposing to give, to various academic institutions.

The Kremlin action in ensuring the Soviet party a share in these buildings could have meaning for long-term relations between Moscow and an independent or semi-independent Lithuania.

It suggests that whatever laws the Lithuanian parliament might pass restricting the rights of "foreign parties" to operate, Moscow will attempt to guarantee the Soviet Communist Party an extra-territorial status as representatives of the Russian population in Lithuania, and that it will also expect that this population will enjoy the same status in Lithuania as Soviet citizens under Soviet protection.

● COPENHAGEN: Mr Uffe Ellemann-Jensen, the Danish Foreign Minister, welcomed a Lithuanian parliamentary delegation's proposal that Denmark should host talks between Lithuania and Moscow. "Denmark is willing to host such a conference on condition that both parties agree," he told a press conference.

The two members of the Lithuanian parliamentary foreign affairs committee said Oslo had given similar support on Wednesday for talks there. The two-delegation is due in Sweden today for talks.



A home-made sewing machine demonstrates the ingenuity of Allied prisoners of war in their efforts to escape from Colditz, right, now open to the public

Great escapes on tourist trail

By Our Foreign Staff

THE imposing medieval castle of Colditz near the East German city of Leipzig, which became the notorious prisoner of war camp for hundreds of Allied officers during the Second World War, opens its gates again tomorrow — this time to the public.

The 500-year-old fortress was chosen by the Nazis because it was thought to be escape-proof. But, as the exhibits in East Germany's latest tourist attraction demonstrate, the inmates went to great lengths to get out.

Among the imaginative items which survive are a hand-made sewing machine used to manufacture German civilian and military uniforms to be worn by escapees.

But the highlight of the new museum is a 42-yard escape tunnel which was dug by the prisoners in eight months.

Germany today are less gainfully employed. Even inmates are not safe from a wave of unemployment sweeping the country.

The Communist Party daily *Neues Deutschland* said yesterday that up to 800 prisoners would be out of a job, because two factories have cancelled production contracts with Magdeburg jail, near the West German border.

The firms are cutting back ahead of reunification with West Germany. Prisoners use the money earned to pay off debts and save for their release.

East German unemployment, hidden or virtually nonexistent under the former Stalinhof rule of Herr Erich Honecker, is now put at more than 30,000, as the country moves from a centrally planned system towards a free-market economy. (Reuters)



Rukh prepares to defy Ukraine Communists

From Bohdan Nahaylo, Munich

STRONG unofficial Ukrainian support for Lithuania's declaration of independence has led to a confrontation between Rukh, Ukraine's Baltic-style popular movement for restructuring, and the Communist Party authorities in Kiev.

Rukh is tomorrow to defy a ban on holding demonstrations throughout Ukraine in order to express solidarity with the Lithuanians. It has also secured backing for its position from dozens of newly elected Ukrainian Democratic People's Deputies.

At a time when the nationalist movement in Ukraine is beginning to come into its own, and new political parties are emerging, this direct challenge to the Communist Party of Ukraine is another serious blow to the party's crumbling credibility.

What is even more alarming for both Moscow and Kiev, however, is that the talk in this republic of 52 million people is now increasingly of independence.

The conflict over the Lithuanian issue began on March 20, when the Rukh leadership was refused permission to hold a mass meeting in Kiev in support of the Lithuanians.

The leaders of the Ukrainian Helsinki Union, the largest national democratic organisation within Rukh, went ahead and issued a statement welcoming the renewal of Lithuanian independence. Other manifestations of solidarity with the Lithuanians followed.

The most impressive of these was last Sunday, when an estimated 30,000 people demonstrated in support of the Lithuanians in the western Ukrainian city of Lvov.

Also last weekend, Rukh discussed the Lithuanian issue at an important conference in Khust, which was attended by about 800 delegates. The meeting issued a statement expressing Rukh's full support for the Lithuanians and strongly condemning President Gorbachev's "violation of the sovereign rights of the Lithuanian people".

The expected confrontation tomorrow over Rukh's decision to defy the ban on demonstrations could not have come at a worse time for the Ukrainian party leader, and his team, since the party's influence is already in sharp decline.

One of Rukh's biggest successes so far was to forge a Democratic Bloc for the elections earlier this month to the Ukrainian Supreme Soviet and the local soviets.

Although the party authorities held up Rukh's legal recognition and were thereby able to block the registration of the Democratic Bloc candidates, the group did remarkably well in the about 55 per cent of constituencies where it and its allies were allowed to put up candidates.

The Democratic Bloc captured some 110, about a

quarter, of the seats in the Ukrainian Supreme Soviet. It won a landslide victory in the traditionally more nationalist assertive western Ukraine, took 16 of the 22 seats in the Ukrainian capital, and even did well in such eastern cities as Kharkov and Sumy.

At least eight former political leaders were elected and Democratic Bloc candidates also did very well in the elections to the local councils. Buoyed up by their impressive showing in the elections, several Rukh leaders have been calling for the creation of a new national democratic political party committed to achieving Ukrainian independence.

Indeed, several of the leading figures, Ivan Drach, Dmytro Pavlychko and Volodymyr Yavorivsky, all writers, have announced that they intend leaving the Communist Party.

At the Rukh conference last weekend, it was decided, however, not to transform Rukh itself into a political party but to keep it as an umbrella organization for all democratic parties and groups in Ukraine on the model of Sajudis in Lithuania.

Already, the Ukrainian Helsinki Union and the republic's ecological Green World Association have announced that they will shortly reconstitute themselves as political parties. A Ukrainian Democratic Peasants' Party appears also to be crystallizing.

The author is a Ukrainian specialist at Radio Liberty

KGB foils bombing attempt

From Michael Binyon, Moscow

A MAN carrying a bomb in Red Square which he planned to explode during a May Day parade was one of at least half a dozen people KGB bodyguards have arrested before they could carry out assassination attempts, the head of the service said yesterday.

General Yuri Plekhanov did not say when the incident took place, but he said that on the following day another man with a gun was arrested in Red Square, and the gun went off accidentally.

Last year security guards arrested a man with a knife during New Year celebrations in the Kremlin. He also was planning an assassination.

He said the KGB bodyguard service is smaller and spends less money than its Western counterparts, but it calls into action other KGB units on any hint of terrorist plots.

Security around President Gorbachev has been stepped up recently, and KGB guards are sometimes visibly nervous when he plunges into the crowds on foreign trips. There was at least one assassination attempt on Leonid Brezhnev soon after he came to power.

Hopes of coalition as Berlin talks take off

From Anne McElvoy, East Berlin

THE long-awaited grand coalition of political forces in East Germany moved a step closer yesterday with the first talks between the dominant Christian Democrats and the opposition Social Democrats ending in broad agreement.

Herr Lothar de Maizière, the Christian Democrats' leader, said after two hours of talks in East Berlin that he deemed the speedy formation of a coalition government "extremely desirable" and he was prepared to negotiate "on all points" to achieve it.

Almost two weeks after the first free elections, there is still a power vacuum and Herr Hans Modrow, the communist Prime Minister, who cleared his desk in the Council of Ministers' building more than a week ago remains as acting Prime Minister despite the massive conservative win.

The uncertainty is ill-received among the population, which has been led by all parties to expect swift change after the elections. The most frequently heard cry of desperation in the streets and in the factories is: "But nothing has changed yet."

Even the emigration figures, which fell sharply in the days after the election, have started to rise again in the new climate of uncertainty.

The stumbling block is a pre-political pledge by the Social Democrats (SPD) not to enter any coalition involving the most right-wing of the three parties in the conservative alliance, the German Social Union (DSU). The conservatives, who are only 2 per cent short of an absolute majority, see no reason to break the alliance but are anxious to involve the SPD in a coalition.

The likely outcome is that the Social Democrats will trade their principles for posts in the new Cabinet, relegating the DSU to lesser positions in the Council of Ministers.

In anticipation of this fate, the DSU is claiming the right to a key office such as the presidency of the Volkskammer, and three ministerial briefs, including the sensitive post of the Interior Ministry, which is thought to be one of the main baits for the Social Democrats.

Herr Markus Meckel, who is acting leader of the SPD pending attempts by Herr Ibrahim Bohme to clear himself of allegations that he was

an informant for the Stasi secret police, said yesterday that it was the responsibility of both sides to form a government before Easter.

Herr de Maizière is also under increasing pressure from Bonn to form a government quickly to facilitate the currency union between the two Germanies, which Herr Helmut Kohl, the West German Chancellor, would like to proceed by the summer.

But the political waters in East Germany continue to be muddied by suspicions that numerous new MPs were formerly part-time workers for the state security network.

Thousands of protesters marched in cities last night in a demonstration under the motto "No Stasi faction in the Volkskammer".

New information unearthed by the Committee for the Dis-solution of the Stasi in Erfurt has revealed that the former ministry had drafted plans for 24 internment camps.

Hungary parties in crude slanging match

From Ernest Beck, Budapest

THE two front runners to rule Hungary after the first round of the general elections have launched into a vitriolic mud-slinging campaign against each other which has dampened the prospect of forming a grand coalition government.

The centre-right Democratic Forum fired the first shot with a scathing newspaper advertisement accusing the Alliance of Free Democrats of being "converted Marxists" who now use "loud anti-communism" to cover their past. By contrast, it said, Forum members opposed communism and the one-party state since 1945 and had never believed in the "socialist utopia".

It alleges that the party is dogmatic, employs a "bol-shevik mentality" evident in its party discipline and internal centralism, and that it has "little common ground with Magyar national aims" while the Forum was rooted deep in Hungarian history.

The advertisement went on to ridicule the Free Democratic "samizdat-makers" for claiming that they were the only ones who "stood up to the lie of bolshevism".

Mr Janos Kis, president of the Free Democrats and a self-confessed former communist party member, responded by saying that engaging in such discussions would lower the moral standing of his party and the nation.

But he went on to ask: "How many members of the Forum were communist party members in 1988? And how many were sitting with Kadar in the 1970s?"

The sharp attacks signalled the end of voluntary adherence to a code of ethics in the first round of the election in which all parties agreed to discuss their own policies and not to denigrate their rivals. The second round of voting to elect a new Parliament takes place on April 8.

Each party accused the other of launching the negative campaign, which observers say has virtually ruled out reconciliation towards a coalition government after the second round.

"They accuse us of being nationalists, anti-Semitic, racist and populist, and say we are communist collaborators," Dr Jozsef Antall, the president of the Democratic Forum said yesterday.

He added: "It is a bad choice of words for a party thinking of a coalition".

He said the Forum would only consider a coalition in a crisis situation or if Hungary was threatened with economic catastrophe similar to the Great Depression. However, the Free Democrats have not entirely dropped the idea, saying only that they want a stable and viable government.

Mr Ferenc Bartha, the head of the Hungarian National Bank, said yesterday that such a coalition would reassure international financial markets and investors interested in helping the country's ailing economy.

But Dr Antall scoffed at the idea that Mr Bartha should have a say in the matter. "I do not think that in England the president of the Bank of England decides such things," he said.

Dr Antall also accused the Hungarian media of biased reporting of the election. Commenting on one analyst's statement that a Forum victory would push Hungary away from Europe, he said: "We reject ex-communications and Marxists giving lectures to us on liberalism."

The harsh words and rough campaign tactics reflect the closeness of the popular vote in the first round, which the Forum won by 4 per cent.

The strains of freedom show as nationalism rises in Slovakia

From Roger Boyes, Bratislava

BRATISLAVA is famous for its watches and clocks.

This week, they have been busy changing the clocks, putting the hands forward like the rest of Central Europe, but not all have been adjusted yet.

Walk down one cobbled street and it is 10 o'clock, turn the corner and it is five past 11; the small, energetic city, indeed the whole of Slovakia, gives the impression of being out of sync.

And so it is: on the one hand Slovak nationalism, that strange swirling 19th century force, is on the rise.

"Slovakia for the Slovaks" says the graffiti. At Public Against Violence, the Slovak branch of Civil Forum, they reckon that the equivalent of £3.7 million has flowed in recently from émigrés to help finance the nationalist and separatist movement.

The results have been echoes of the semi-free fascist Slovak republic tolerated by Hitler; the waning, in demonstrations, of the old fascist banner; and a steady squeeze on the minorities, above all the 600,000 Hungarians and the 800,000 Czechs. These clocks then have not been adjusted.

But Milan Simecka, the essayist, Dr

Fedor Gal, the futurologist who organized an underground report about the future of Slovakia, and Martin Butora, the sociologist, all have their watches fine-tuned to Western Europe. Now that the Iron Curtain is no more than a polite passport control hut, the terms of reference for Slovakia, and for most of Central Europe, have changed dramatically. Slovakia was always on the periphery of empire, first in the Austro-Hungarian imperial era when the Slovaks were battered down by Magyar overlords, later under the Communists.

Bratislava was not truncated in the same way as Prague after the 1968 invasion. Its atmosphere remained more free, perhaps because the Russians detected elements of pan-Slavic sympathies from the Slovaks.

Mr Alexander Dubcek is a Slovak, but so too were the disgraced Communist hardliner, Mr Vasil Bilak, and Mr Dubcek's rigid successor, Mr Gustav Husak.

Bratislava was less interested in the reform of socialism than in the winning of more autonomy. The city's radicals were drawn mainly from the Catholic Church, Christian Democrats in their orientation — such as Mr Ivan Carnogursky, whose older brother, Jan,

is the Deputy Prime Minister. The Prague intellectuals seemed agnostic, disillusioned Marxist, metropolitan and far away. Yet Bratislava looked to Prague, as it once looked to Budapest, for political concessions and economic grants to ease the loss of the peasantry and small industry.

Those on the very edge of the Slovak periphery, the poorest of the dirt-poor farmers, fell off: they emigrated to the United States.

The relationship between centre and periphery has shifted drastically in Eastern Europe. Dr Ferdinand Lacina, the Austrian Finance Minister, said this week that especially Czechs, Slovaks and Hungarians could commute to work in Austria and plug manpower shortages.

The Iron Curtain created psychological distance and disguised the geographical proximity of Central Europe. Budapest is 2½ hours' drive from Vienna, 30 minutes by air, while commuting from Bratislava to central Vienna is no more than that of Wimbledon to the City.

As East European industries restructure — that is, trim down their workforces — cheap, but well-educated staff will flow westwards.

This is already the overriding concern of West Germans as they sprint towards reunification. But for Austria, once the imperial hub, there is a governmental readiness to take on some of the load, if only because it will restore its status as a centre, rather than an economic appendage of the European Community.

The problem is the trade unions. They fear that the work permits granted to hundreds of thousands of commuting East Europeans will force down wages. "The unions would much prefer it if these foreign workers laboured only on the black market," says Dr Lacina.

These are new forces, and though the West may throw up administrative barriers to protect jobs there is no way of resisting them in the long term. The West is their economic and, ultimately, their political magnet. Moscow has become an abstraction.

A re-orientation towards the West could lead to massive emigration on the scale of the 1880s. The pressure is on both the Church and the reform movements to give Slovaks a reason to stay.

Bishop Jan Korec, a brave Jesuit and head of the seminary in Bratislava, believes it is a matter of spiritual strengthening: "We look forward to the Pope's visit towards the end of April. It will be a decisive event, especially for the

wavering young in Slovakia and Moravia." The bishop was given a diocese by the Pope only recently — but he has been a member of the episcopacy in the underground Catholic Church since 1951, when he was 27. His life sketches a typical Slovak destiny.

In the autumn of 1950, Bishop Pobozy ordained him a priest, then the bishop was jailed. Pobozy, secretly in his prison cell, appointed another bishop, who in turn elevated Father Korec. Then followed years of factory work, interrogation, jailings. He could have left Slovakia but did not.

Not far away, underneath the towering Hrad (castle), there are the offices of Public Against Violence. The leader is Mr Jan Budaj, a former stoker — of course, like most of the new political class. He is 37, quick of movement. Ambition contorts his face. His problem is that there are not enough people to build a true Slovak democracy. The Communists have been shoved out of the Slovak national assembly, but there are few young professionals willing to take on the work.

Mr Budaj's group commands about 30 per cent of popular support in Slovakia — the rest is split evenly between six or seven parties — and looks well-placed for

the June election. But then what? Somehow, Public Against Violence has to fight against the separatists and the Slovak chauvinists, who are stirring up trouble against the Hungarian minority.

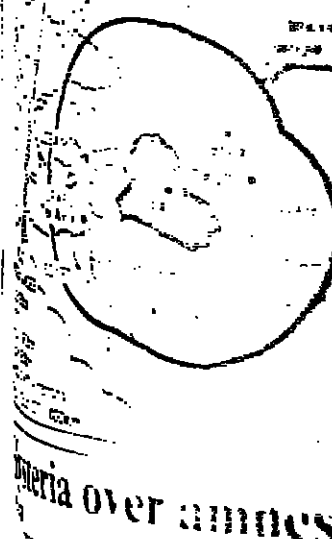
Yet they must make a specifically Slovak contribution to the democratic renewal of Czechoslovakia.

Their formula is not entirely new: more ecological awareness; a motion to make the name of Czechoslovakia hyphenated (perhaps the last part of the word could be italicized when you write it in *The Times*, suggested one activist); a request to Mr Jiri Dienstbier, a Czechoslovak Foreign Minister, and another former stoker, to start every third state visit from Bratislava rather than Prague airport. Separateness is a political watchword, not separatism.

Here is the post-communist paradox. It is the brief of the new governments of the economy, to recognize the rights of all individual ethnic minorities, to democratize the political machine — and yet still to preserve unity, for without unity none of the other goals can be attained. How to do it?

The hands of the clock will continue to move erratically, back and forth, between seasons and centuries.

Take device
US sting
helped to foil
Saddam plot



over amnes

Iraq's atomic ambitions

Fake devices in US 'sting' helped to foil Saddam plot

From Martin Fletcher, Washington

BEHIND the foiling of Iraq's alleged attempt to obtain devices for triggering nuclear bombs was a long and complex "sting" operation conducted on both sides of the Atlantic, whose ultimate success was often in doubt.

Piecing together the information leaking out here, it is clear that the operation began in the autumn of 1988, when a California company, called CSI Technologies, from San Marcos, near San Diego, was approached by a British company, which cannot be named for legal reasons, that wanted to buy a significant quantity of krytrons, highly-sensitive electronic switching devices.

Some forms of krytron can be bought commercially in the US for around \$100 (£61) each and are used in such devices as strobe lights, laser power-supply systems and high-speed copying machines.

However, the order aroused CSI's suspicions because it required krytrons of a specification which could only have a military use. As such, their export to certain countries would be prohibited under American law.

CSI quietly informed the law enforcement authorities, and US Customs asked Mr Jerold Kowalski, its president, to comply with the order, offering a good price so that the British company did not go elsewhere. Last April, however, it apparently pulled out in the wake of press reports that Iraq was seeking to build nuclear warheads.

It turned out to be only a precautionary measure. By June, the company had approached CSI again. Last September, Mr Kowalski flew to London with Mr Daniel Supnick, an experienced undercover Customs agent, to meet the director of the company. Two Iraqis, who said that they represented Al Qaeda, an Iraqi government rocket-research organization, were also present.

According to one account here yesterday, the Iraqis agreed to pay \$10,500 for the krytrons, which they said were for aerospace purposes. The following day, the company contacted Mr Kowalski again to suggest that the krytrons be labelled components for computer-room air-conditioning units. The Iraqi Embassy in London is said to have authorized the payments with two telexes.

This threw plans for shipping the krytrons to Iraq into confusion. According to *The New York Times*, the company wanted them sent straight to Baghdad, but CSI refused. US Customs tried in vain to lure the Iraqis to California to collect the krytrons. It was finally agreed that they would be sent via

Britain, and earlier this month the Iraqis provided the end-user certificate required by US Customs, which said the krytrons were for a laser system at the School of Applied Science at the Baghdad University of Technology.

The order was sent to Britain and claimed by the company.

In Washington, there has been intense speculation about how close the Iraqis are to building a nuclear bomb.

An unconfirmed report in the *Washington Times* yesterday, quoting US intelligence officials, said Iraq was in the process of deploying "enhanced" Soviet Scud 2 surface-to-surface missiles at three remote sites, one in the north-eastern Iraqi desert, one in the north-western desert, and one in the south.

The sites, with fixed-launchers in place, had been photographed by US intelligence satellites earlier this month.

The Osirak nuclear reactor, bombed by the Israelis in 1981, had also begun producing weapons-grade nuclear materials again, according to the newspaper.

On certain facts, the Administration and independent experts agree.

They confirm that the Iraqis have established an elaborate network around the world for the purchase of technology and equipment which could be used for the development of nuclear weapons.

They believe Iraq is still five years, possibly 10, away from having its own nuclear warheads. They agree that President Saddam Hussein is determined that Iraq should become the Middle East's superpower, and that there is now a paramount need for vigilance by Western countries which possess the technology that he requires.

The operation "demonstrates a clear intention to acquire nuclear weapons", said Mr Leonard Spector, a nuclear proliferation expert at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace.

"Now is the time for international pressure to be brought on Iraq, especially from countries like France and the Soviet Union that are supplying arms to Iraq, and from various Western states that are extending economic credits," he added.

Mr Gary Milhollin, the director of the Wisconsin Project, a body concerned with nuclear proliferation matters, said the Iraqi effort was "part of a worldwide, well-financed, dedicated effort to get nuclear weapons."

"It appears to be the first open violation of the nuclear non-proliferation treaty by a non-nuclear weapons state."



President Saddam Hussein: Determined to make Iraq the Middle East's superpower but he is five to 10 years from having his own nuclear warheads

Nuclear treaty's future is called into question

By Her. Stanhope

THE discovery of the Iraqi nuclear "trigger" plot has cast doubt on the effectiveness of the 1968 Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty.

And it has done so at an embarrassing time, with the treaty due for review in five months' time. Signatories must now consider whether it should be given more "teeth".

When it came into force 20 years ago this month, the treaty was hailed as one of the wonders of the age. More than 100 countries with no nuclear weapons signed away their future right to acquire them, while three of the five which had them (the two superpowers and Britain) promised not to help other governments to acquire them. France and China also had nuclear weapons at that time. They did not sign the treaty but agreed to abide by its terms.

This agreement between the "haves" and the "have-nots" has always had its weaknesses. One is that the deal was considered unequal. Under Article Six the "haves" had been required to reduce both nuclear and conventional-weapon stockpiles - which they have clearly failed to do.

It was also supposed that the nations with nuclear capability would give preferential treatment to treaty signatories in helping them to

acquire nuclear technology for peaceful purposes. Financial and political realities, however, have meant that this has never been the case.

The other weakness was that no sanctions were built in to punish those powers which break the treaty's terms.

Despite these apparent failings, however, the treaty has to all appearances worked. Although India tested a nuclear device in 1974, no country has openly joined the "Famous Five" by emerging as a fully fledged nuclear power. Moreover, at the last count, the number of signatories had grown to 141.

Israel and India are also generally considered "nuclear capable", although whether they have deliverable weapons is debatable.

The position of six other nations is ambiguous, according to Dr John Simpson, co-director of the programme at Southampton University for promoting non-proliferation. They are Argentina, Brazil, North Korea, Pakistan, Romania and South Africa. The latter has recently seemed to indicate that it may be about to sign the treaty.

While Iran and Iraq are under strong suspicion, Dr Simpson thinks that, despite this week's events, they are both still some years away

from becoming full nuclear-weapon powers.

Nevertheless, the suspicion that Iraq is striving to achieve nuclear capability gives rise to particular concern in the wake of reports at the end of last year that it had tested a three-stage rocket capable of reaching several Middle East neighbours, including Iran. It is possible the device, designed for the US Minuteman, were intended to trigger the separate stages on a ballistic missile, as opposed to a warhead.

The non-proliferation treaty is thought to have worked in two main ways: It has established a climate in which nuclear weapons are held to be morally undesirable, and it has made it difficult, although not impossible, for countries to acquire them.

It was feared, a quarter of a century ago, that nuclear weapons were about to spread through the Third World; whether they will do so in future still remains uncertain. But the treaty has at least slowed matters down.

It has certainly worked well enough for the big powers in particular to want to keep it going in perpetuity.

In any event, it may be needed more in the next quarter of a century than in the last.

Baghdad 'lacking arms materials'

From Alan McGregor, Geneva

There is no evidence that Iraq possesses enough plutonium or uranium for nuclear weapon production, according to Mr Jozef Goldblatt, senior research fellow at the Geneva Graduate Institute of International Studies and an au-

thority on compliance with the 1970 Non-Proliferation Treaty and other arms control measures. He said yesterday that, while Iraq had some highly-enriched uranium, provided by France for the research reactor which was destroyed by Israeli bombing in 1981, this was under safe-

guards administered by the International Atomic Energy Agency. "The IAEA says it is satisfied there is no weapons-usable material on Iraq territory to which its safeguards are not applied," Mr Goldblatt said. Any nuclear weapons programme would have revealed itself, he added.

KISS THE TURPS GOODBYE.

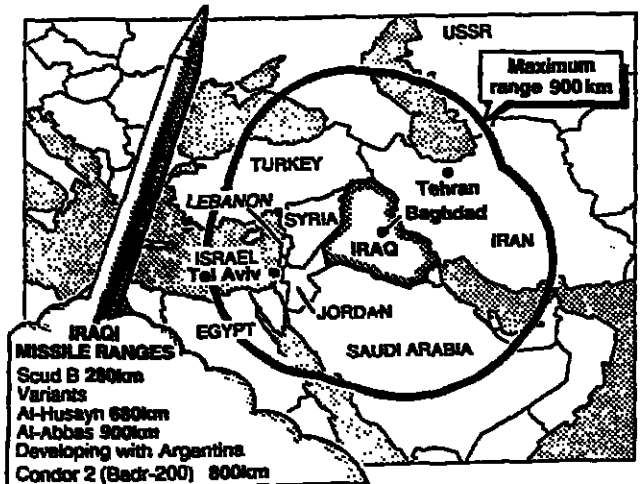


Now there's a new way to paint woodwork. A single-coat gloss paint which doesn't require an undercoat.

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Hysteria over amnesty

Hong Kong
Up to 100 people were injured in the Portuguese colony of Macau yesterday and more than 1,000 were arrested as hysterical crowds scrambled to register for a government amnesty offered to Chinese immigrants living illegally in the territory (Jonathan Braude writes). Police fired into the air to control a crowd of 50,000. Macau originally said only some 4,200 people would be granted amnesty.

Son to testify

Los Angeles — Stewart Woodman, convicted of murdering his British-born parents for insurance money, has agreed to testify against his brother and two alleged hit-men and avoid a possible death sentence. (Reuters)

Longer reach

Washington — Libya has successfully tested a system to refuel bombers in flight, improving their ability to reach Israel, according to Pentagon intelligence reports disclosed in *The New York Times*.

MPs barred

Madrid — The Spanish Constitutional Court assured a working majority for the Socialists by ruling that pro-ETA coalition Herri Batasuna deputies may not take their seats in Parliament because they failed to abide by the wording of the oath of office.

Election offer

Dhaka — President Ershad of Bangladesh has offered an early general election to the opposition parties if they call off a campaign to unseat his eight-year-old Government.

Opium increase

Bangkok — Thailand's "Golden Triangle" produced a bumper crop of at least 2,000 tonnes of opium in the six months to February. (Reuters)

Ustinov find

A £250,000 vintage car stolen from Peter Ustinov in Nice has been found after one of the actor's staff admitted stealing and selling it.

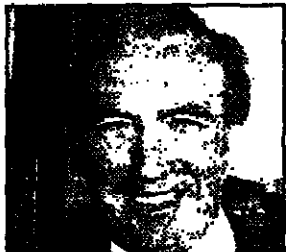
Kashmir deaths

Delhi — At least 10 people, including a policeman, have died in shooting between police and extremists in Srinagar, Jammu and Kashmir.

TIMES DIARY

NIGEL WILLIAMSON

The prospect of the Prime Minister being summoned to appear before a Commons select committee to answer questions from backbench MPs was blocked by Mrs Thatcher when the system was set up in 1979. It emerged at Westminster this week. The revelation came from a very frank Lord St John of Fawley, who as Norman St John Stevas was the leader of the House in Mrs Thatcher's first Cabinet. As such he was responsible for establishing the committee system which shadows government departments and is widely regarded as one of the most successful constitutional innovations of recent years.



Lord St John: revelations

To mark the committee's tenth anniversary, the Commons procedure committee is holding an inquiry into their operation, and this week it heard evidence from their founder. In a rare insight into the workings of a Thatcher Cabinet, Lord St John revealed the "sharp struggle" he had to have any commitment to select committees included in the first Queen's Speech. Mrs Thatcher did not care for them at all, he said, and tried to reduce them to no more than five or six. In order to get them through - which he achieved within six weeks of the election victory - Lord St John compromised. He continued to argue successfully for a much larger number, but he dropped the idea of a committee that could summon the prime minister. No doubt the compromise was worthwhile, to get the system established at all, but what treats we have been denied.

Discussing the poll tax at one of their regular meetings last week, the bright and ambitious bunch of Tories who act as special advisers to Cabinet ministers were asked by John Whittingdale, Mrs Thatcher's special adviser, whether they still felt it was a good thing. Several of the newest recruits, eager to impress their battle-scarred colleagues with their commitment to the true faith, enthusiastically affirmed that they did. Those who practically fell off their chairs laughing, I am told, included the advisers to over half of the present Cabinet.

An encampment similar to that at Greenham Common has sprung up outside the Palace of Westminster. The demonstration started with a lone poll-tax protester, complete with camp bed, on College Green, the tiny patch of grass opposite Parliament beloved of TV interviewers. By yesterday, the number of sleeping-bag protesters had grown to half a dozen. They spent much of the day posing for Japanese tourists. Tory MP James Gorman has tabled questions about the matter, but it seems there is little the Westminster authorities can do. Permission for the protest was granted by the Department of the Environment - which is also responsible for implementation of the poll tax.

Of all the ways to break a leg, falling down a flight of stairs in one's rush to get into a television studio to give an interview about a local hospital closure takes some beating. Stand up - if it is not too painful - Jerry Hayes, Tory MP for



Hayes: promises a miracle

Harlow. He still managed to give the interview on one leg, and promises on next being called to speak in the House to throw away his crutches, shouting: "I can walk." The Tories could do with a miracle, he says.

The advert to find a successor to Peter Mandelson as Labour's communications supremo is set to appear next month, and with Labour enjoying a record lead in the polls, party officials expect a bumper crop of applicants. But those who get the job as a stepping stone to Downing Street could be disappointed. If Labour wins the next election, the man most likely to play Bernard Ingham to prime minister Kinnock is Alistair Campbell, now political editor of the *Daily Mirror*. The paper already boasts one former prime ministerial press officer in Joe Haines, who did the job for Harold Wilson. Campbell played an important part in Labour's last election campaign as the off-screen interviewer in the famous Kinnock election broadcast made by Hugh Charvillat of Fire Hudson.

SEE the spring in my step? Note the light in my eye? Clock the chuckle playing about my lips: what can be bringing us this morning, you ask?

Good news to all who fear that the art of letter-writing is dead, is what. It is a big all, else I should not bother to bring it. Indeed, such flies fortunate enough to have been left on the walls of middle-class dinner parties after the Filipinos has been round with the FBI will readily testify that the talk is often of little else. You know, I'm sure, the scene quickly mopped up with the watercress soup have been the Hecelina anthesis, the Gooch fracture and the Gorbachev dichotomy; the unhealthy dominance of mythogenic fiction and the tendency of the 3-series to oversteer in the wet have us through the marinated hake, and here we are,

staring gloomily at our kumquat sorbets and lamenting that nobody writes letters any more. This is all down, we mutter, to electronic prostheses. From here on it will be *Lord Chesterfield's Carphone Calls To His Son*, *The Collected Faxes of Elizabeth Barrett Browning*, and *Edmund Burke's Answering Machine Message to a Noble Lord on the Attacks made upon him and his Pension in the House of Lords by the Duke of Bedford and the Earl of Lauderdale*.

So choiced do we become at this drear prospect that by the time the crown of lamb heads to alongside, we can hardly bring ourselves to address the

Nicholas Barr puts GPs' contracts in an international perspective

Controlling the doctors

Both doctor and patient can behave as though medical care costs nothing.

The need to contain medical costs requires that doctors are either controlled or given incentives to economize. The control solution is almost universal. Doctors in Canada are paid out of public health insurance funds for the treatment they give, but the price they can charge is controlled, and the quantity of treatment is monitored. Doctors there complain about the restrictions, yet Canada is one of the few countries that has kept medical costs under control.

American doctors work under fewer controls, and, largely in consequence, the growth of medical spending in the United States has become an enormous problem. Medicare (for the elderly) and Medicaid (for the poor) are financed out of taxation. Until recently there was little scrutiny of doctors' charges,

nor of the amount of treatment they prescribed. As a result, spending on Medicare and Medicaid has risen to the point where it is the fourth largest item in the federal budget. In addition, partly because of the rising costs of private insurance, some 35 million Americans - about one in six of the population under 65 years old - have no financial protection against medical expenses, public or private.

The National Health Service attacks the cost problem in a different way. Medical care is financed through the tax system with a budget for each NHS District, and doctors, for the most part, are paid a salary rather than a fee-for-service. Both factors act as a brake on profligate expenditure. Largely as a result, the NHS gives quite exceptional value for money.

The facts are important. In 1987 (the latest year for which international data are available)

Britain spent 6 per cent of GDP on health care, the lowest figure of the OECD Big Seven. Yet we are as healthy as other countries. In terms of infant mortality and life expectancy, we do slightly less well than Sweden, and about as well as Germany; and better than the US, which spent 11.2 per cent of GDP on health care.

When compared with other countries the NHS is both cheap and effective. It manages better the inevitable conflict between doctors (who are interested in giving patients the best possible treatment) and governments (who are interested in containing costs): it is a strategy worth building on.

But even in the NHS major problems remain, which can be solved satisfactorily only by proper consultation between government and doctors. The list of approved drugs is an attempt to ensure that doctors prescribe the cheapest alter-

native. But what if doctors were to face the costs of the treatment they prescribe?

The NHS White Paper allows large group practices to manage their own budget for some types of treatment. This, it is argued, will encourage doctors to act efficiently, just as cost pressures encourage supermarkets and clothing firms to be efficient. There is, however, an important difference: with food and clothing, quality levels can be monitored by consumers, and if they do not like it they can vote with their feet.

But medical care is technically complex; often the patient does not have the information to allow judgements on quality; and the costs of mistaken choice are immeasurably higher than in the case of a badly chosen restaurant. Some form of quality control is therefore needed.

The NHS White Paper pays lip service to the importance of

medical audit, but nowhere states how it should be organized, with what powers, and by whom. Given the inevitable tension between cost and quality, medical audit, conducted by doctors along lines agreed between the medical profession and the government, will be absolutely critical if the incentives to economize are not to reduce quality.

It is necessary to have an agreed system which monitors what doctors do (as in Canada), or monitors how they do it (as will be necessary under the NHS reforms). It is a myth to imagine that doctors can be wholly free, that doctors can agree a framework which controls expenditure and which controls quality, but which leaves doctors with the discretion to do what they do best - treating patients.

There is no completely right answer: but any answer which is not the result of genuine consultation is unlikely to come even close. Government and British Medical Association please note.

Dr Barr is Senior Lecturer in Economics at the LSE, and co-author of evidence on NHS reform to the House of Commons Social Services Committee.

Bad Thatcher aspects under Kohl ascendant

Today's talks between Mrs Thatcher and Chancellor Kohl take place under a very different sign of the zodiac than the last. German unity was only a twinkle in Mr Gorbachev's eye a year ago, and one question of grand strategy brooded over their meetings like a bird of prey. Would Margaret Thatcher get her host's agreement to the deployment of a new generation of short-range nuclear missiles on West German soil?

It was an impossible task. Hans-Dietrich Genscher, Bonn's principal power-broker, had threatened to bring down the coalition if the Chancellor gave way. It was a disconsolate couple who appeared before journalists in the village hall. Her expression was one of icy contempt; his of volcanic wrath. There was no agreement. At George Bush's suggestion, the question was shelved during the subsequent Nato summit.

German reunification and the changes in other parts of Eastern Europe have changed the security outlook, but the personalities have not changed, and the omens for today's meeting are not good. Earlier this month Mrs Thatcher sustained the temperature, revealing herself for her humiliation over nuclear modernization by forcing Herr Kohl to resolve his ambiguity over the Polish-German border.

It is worth asking why Anglo-German relations should be plunging new depths just now. One of the major recent causes of friction - the presence in Germany of a third of the British Army and the RAF - should dwindle into insignificance as the Red Army withdraws and the Western allies scale down their forces in response. Grassroots pressure from his nation of environmentalists has in the past forced Herr Kohl to demand crippling restrictions on Nato training; the British have always been firmest among the allies in resisting him.

Second, the victory of the Christian Democrats in the East German elections means that a reunified Germany is much less likely to be neutralist than was feared until a month or two ago. Finally, the liberation of Central Europe has greatly strengthened Mrs Thatcher's hand vis-à-vis European federalists, including Mitterrand and Herr Kohl. The British lion would rather do business with the German eagle than with the hypothetical hydra of a federal Europe.

So why is there no détente between the Bonn chancellery and Downing Street, to match the recent blossoming of West German relations with the White House? It is fashionable to point to President Bush's unstinting support for German reunification as proof that the new German superpower has greater leverage in Washington than has Britain with its special relationship.

The personal incompatibility of the two leaders is certainly not the only problem; it has in any case been offset by two outstanding diplomats. One is the present Foreign Secretary, Douglas



Daniel Johnson explores the reasons for the current friction between Britain and West Germany as the two leaders meet today for talks

Hurd, who makes discreet but effective trips to Bonn; the other is the British ambassador, Sir Christopher Mallaby, whose reputation there is second to none. To remove the remaining obstacles to harmonious relations will, however, be complex.

Mrs Thatcher is now going through a period of mid-term unpopularity similar to that which afflicted Herr Kohl a year ago. Just as he was then considered to be weak and vulnerable to pressure, whether domestic or external, so she is no longer seen in Bonn as the *Eisernen Dame*, but as something approaching a lame duck. However superficial this analysis is, it undoubtedly affects Britain's standing.

The reversal of political roles has been accompanied by a similar change in economic fortunes. Where West Germany was less dynamic than Britain in 1985-88, the fates have seen to it that the Germans are now enjoying a boom, while the British economy is in difficulty, however temporary. All this weakens British influence, while German prestige has never been higher.

If there is an element of Schadenfreude directed at the British in the unconcealed triumphalism of some members of the West German establishment, it cannot be denied that Germanophobia is still encountered among their British counterparts. Prejudice, though, did not prevent a rapid reversal of British policy: from a refusal to consider rapid reunification last November to the present readiness to accept all its consequences, within the two-plus-

four framework. Despite Herr Kohl's Silesian own-goal, the British have not sought to interfere in the process of reunification.

Nor have latent suspicions of German nationalism yet brought about the noticeable shift towards a new *entente cordiale* with France that has been widely predicted. The French applauded (and were secretly piqued by) Mrs Thatcher's vigorous defence of Polish interests, which they had considered their domain. But President Mitterrand's determination to ensure that continental Europe continues to revolve on a Franco-German axis - ignoring the already perceptible gravitation of power to the new Germany - denies the centrifugal forces represented by the British. French faith in federalism may weaken, however, once a unified Germany with its capital in Berlin becomes conscious of its strength and of its economic and cultural mission in *Mittleuropa*.

Underlying West Germany's often fragile relations with its neighbours is an almost neurotic sensitivity to criticism, which derives largely from the conviction that others are exploiting the Nazi past to blackmail the wealthy German politicians, diplomats and journalists. The work of reconciliation done over four decades by the Königswinter Conference, at which both Mrs Thatcher and Herr Kohl spoke last night, is by no means over.

that the metaphysical root of the hostility was the financial German work ethic. German efficiency had forced the rest of the world to abandon its medieval paradise for the atheistic purgatory of capitalism.

There can be no doubt that German over-sensitivity has sometimes had drastic consequences. Walther Rathenau, the Weimar Republic's foreign minister, shocked the world in 1922 by concluding the Treaty of Rapallo with his fellow pariahs, the Russians. His friend Count Kessler recorded his exasperation in 1919 at the attitude of British and American visitors, who were "unanimous in their attitude of condescension to their regard with a mixture of loathing and contempt unique in history... As a Jew, he is perfectly familiar with such politically distasteful turns of phrase and the accompanying looks."

Herr Kohl feels towards the US and Britain the gratitude of most Germans of his age for resisting Hitler and Stalin. If he nevertheless reacts with fury to any comparison with the past, the new generation of German politicians is likely to be still more resentful. It will include East Germans, who were never brought up to apologize for Hitler. It will lack the awareness of distinctively German infirmities and separations, born of bitter experience, which characterized Adenauer and which still distinguishes President Richard von Weizsäcker. None of this means that the British and the Germans are doomed to infuriate one another forever. But it will require a far deeper knowledge of the German mind on the parts of future British politicians, diplomats and journalists. The work of reconciliation done over four decades by the Königswinter Conference, at which both Mrs Thatcher and Herr Kohl spoke last night, is by no means over.

Philip Howard: New words for old

Nolz bids for immortality

The statues of Stalin are coming down all over Vilnius. In our lifetimes Leningrad will be Saint Petersburg again, without stopping at Petrograd. Words last longer than bronze, as all those heroic statues of Stalin and Lenin rudely hoisted from their pedestals are happily demonstrating, just as the statues of an earlier tyrant, Sejanus, hoisted over by the rope demonstrated 19 centuries ago. To coin a word that sticks in the vocabulary is a kind of linguistic immortality.

There is no damned merit or justice about successful coinages or euphemisms. The great Duke of Wellington, in his simplicity sublime, is remembered linguistically today only for wellies (very roughly modelled on his calf-hugging leather boots, worn under his trousers), of which he would certainly have said: "I never saw so many shocking bad boots in my life." Gladstone, the GOM of morality in politics, has left his name to a naïf piece of hand luggage consisting of two equal-sized hinged compartments. In the frivolous way of language, our own dear Prime Minister is as likely to leave her name as a verb meaning to belt somebody around the ears with a handbag as to bequeath it as something more dignified.

New words come in in weird and wonderful ways. Take the brand new verb "to nolz", which is heard quite widely in London slang, and was used in BBC TV's *Only Fools and Horses*. It means to make a right mess of something, as in, "I nolzed that, all right," Alan Hiron of Hammer-smith claims, persuasively, to have coined the word 20 years ago. In 1968 Mr Hiron was working in a City office, where the commissionaire whiled away his day by tackling the (then) *Evening News*'s children's crossword. Invariably stuck at the halfway stage, he would ask passing staff for help with one of the baffling clues.

Rubbing salt one day, Alan Hiron was stopped with the plea, "Excuse me, Mr Hiron: 'River of Egypt', four letters - N-I-Z. What do you reckon that might be?" Perhaps a little unkindly, Hiron suggested that it might be the River Nolz, and hurried on. Later he told the story to some colleagues - fellow crossword addicts - and they gradually adopted "nolz" as meaning "an incorrect, though plausible, solution to a clue that makes the completion of the rest of the crossword impossible". There is no other word in English that conveys that precise meaning. They began to use it as a verb, also, as in, "I nolzed 7 across, and accordingly couldn't finish the top right-hand corner."

In its current slang meaning around fruity districts of London - "to make a general bish of things, seriously to horse things up" - the point of the word has been blurred. In its exact crossword use, it conveys a unique meaning. Nolz is not yet familiar enough to be used as a solution in *The Times* crossword, at least not without causing some grief to those who live outside London. But it is a pretty little

word, with a bizarre etymology.

After "nolz", what about "graunch"? Mr Alan Sabourin of Ilminster in Somerset read in *The Times* a report of the Whitbread Yacht Race, in which somebody's rudder had been damaged, and as a result a cracked stock was producing "an unerving graunching noise". He jumped a foot in the air from his armchair without standing up first, because he fondly believed that "graunch" had been coined originally by the D Watch Air Traffic Control team in Heathrow Control Tower in the early Fifties. They used it as an all-purpose word of many facets, whose meaning at any time was governed by its context. An aircraft could be graunch (turned) into final approach; it could be graunch (descended) to a lower altitude; a lid or bottle top could be graunch (on or off); a crossed fountain pen nib was graunch, and could sometimes be graunch (refilled); nuts could be graunch (tightened or loosened); cars were graunch into parking spaces; aircraft were graunch (on landed on the appropriate runway) and graunch (off became airborne); a tight situation was described as "a bit of a graunch". And so on, pretty well ad infinitum.

When Alan Sabourin left the Tower, he was presented with a pewter mug inscribed: "27 September 1956 - To the Sabourin of D Watch and original Grauncher, by the Graunchers". No wonder he was shocked to see their private word re-emerging 30 years later half way across the Tasman Sea.

Graunch is a pretty word of air traffic controllers' slang, though passengers would do well not to think hard about its onomatopoeic qualities just before landing. But it has an older and even odder history than its manifestation at Heathrow Control Tower.

To graunch has been around for well over a century in regional dialect, and in New Zealand, whither immigrants must have taken it. It is an onomatopoeic or echoic word, meaning (intransitively) to make a crunching or grinding sound, and (transitively) to cause something to make such a sound, and hence to damage (sc. a mechanism of some kind). Graunching and graunchy mean testing or difficult. Here is an example from *Leicestershire Words* published, alas, as long ago as 1881: "Graunch, variant of crunch and scorch. To crush or grind with a noise; to crush. 'I'm sure it freezes, for I heard the ice graunching under the wheels of the carriage.' Compare the old dialect word 'to granch', which means to gnash one's teeth (also echoic). Partridge says that a grauncher was motor-cyclists' slang for an inept mechanic from the 1920s onwards. And there is evidence that graunch was RAF slang during the Battle of Britain to reproduce the noise a plane made when it crashed and slid. The RAF origin may explain its delightful new manifestation at Heathrow.

Amusing little red letter day



ALAN COREN

name, there lived not long ago one of those old-fashioned gentlemen who are never without a lance upon a rack; an old target, a lean horse and a greyhound". The letter begins:

"Dear Mr Coren. Some of the most important winemaking families in Spain have entrusted me to write to you on their behalf."

Do you not see it all in that brilliantly economical *enunsiated*? The cloaked cabal convened beneath the cellar's flickering flambeaux, the plangent pluck of flamenco from the bodgas above, the long agonized debate in low hoarse voices, and at last, Sr Segundo Sanz (for it is he) selected by secret ballot to commit to vellum the quill which will save them all. A wise choice. Sr Sanz has style. More yet: when epistolary duty is to be done, Sr Sanz has *efficiency*.

"They have asked me to explain why we are inviting you to purchase the beautiful wines we produce. Yet they are afraid that you may believe this is yet another sales letter inspired by the commercial pressures which now pervade our once gentlemanly business."

How could I believe that? Or fail to believe anything of a man who writes "You need not pay until you receive the wines, for the people of Britain are an honest people"? We know Sr Sanz is not in it for the money, he is in it for the words. Would that I had room here to select more of the thousand he has written, the mellifluous evocation of the lunch at which our own dear Queen

sipped their *Marques de Atella*, the shimmering tropes devoted to the great mansions beneath which proud Spanish aristocrats stroll gazing rapidly at their Maestros Bodegueros stocks, the wondrous depiction of "the children of the vineyard" as they spoonfed each swelling pip - you will just have to believe me when I say that, as far as the Latin renaissance is concerned, García Márquez and Fuentes and Casares and Allende and Vargas Llosa may be all very well over the distance, but they will have to get the whip out sharply if they are not to be trounced by Segundo in the sprint.

This afternoon I shall write to him, not because I want his wine, but because I want another letter. I tell you, my forthcoming edition of *The Collected Junkmail of Segundo Sanz* is going to be something very special.

THE WATER'S LOVELY

Is there anyone left in the upper echelons of Government — the Prime Minister apart — who is not in favour of Britain's early entry into the European exchange-rate mechanism? New voices in favour of membership this year join the chorus almost daily. Mr Hurd and Mr Major continue to deliver to Downing Street the same advice (if more gently phrased) that was given by their predecessors, Sir Geoffrey Howe and Mr Lawson. Britain's senior commissioner at the EC, Sir Leon Brittan, considers that each of the conditions set for entry by the Prime Minister at the Madrid EC summit have been met. The Governor of the Bank of England says that apart from the convergence of British and European interest rates, they are fulfilled. City and academic argument is concerned almost exclusively with fine calculations over what interest rate would be ideal.

There are technical debates over the precise calibration of entry and wider questions over the short and long-term effects on the British economy. There is a separate political dispute within Government over the "Madrid conditions": have they, or have they not, been met? Since the Prime Minister has repeatedly committed the Government to entry, the only remaining arguments for delay are tactical. Even those are being whittled down. So how might Messrs Hurd and Major deftly unhook the Prime Minister from her distracting difficulty and return the ERM issue to the economists?

They might do as their text the Prime Minister's own closing message to the Conservative MEPs delivered at Downing Street in January: we are Europeans and we share the European ideal. There are simply differences of tactics. It is not Britain's tactical interest to fight its corner in the larger arguments over common currency and a central bank from within the ERM.

The conditions which looked as if they might become early allies of Britain against the proposals of the two and three of the Delors report on monetary union have not so far come

forward, apparently discouraged by our indecision over completing stage one. With the quickening pace of discussion on a European currency and reform of the Treaty of Rome, the penalties of unnecessary isolation become heavier all the time. Although no one suggests British participation before July (when Italian capital movement controls are lifted), the chances that these liberalizations in France and Italy will seriously affect the ERM's operation seem slim.

The two ministers could tactfully suggest that there is no longer any dividend to be obtained within the Conservative Party, nor any electoral dividend outside it, from further procrastination. With clouds like the poll tax and Hong Kong already hovering over the party conference in the autumn, are there not arguments for defusing a potential row over Europe? The Prime Minister has nothing to lose on the anti-European wing of the party and everything to gain from the larger pro-European end. She can make use of respectable anti-inflation arguments in favour of ERM entry.

Her party managers can take comfort from the possibility that, in the short term, entry will allow interest rates to come down without generating inflationary pressure. Best of all, a declaration on rapid entry will remove Labour's principal claim — currently based on advocating early ERM entry — to be better prepared to reconquer inflation.

The Madrid conditions remain the pivot of the argument, however. Depending on one's definition of "convergence", they have either been met or are heading in that direction. Any further delay will suggest to Britain's EC partners that the commitment to enter when the time is right was a euphemism for indefinite postponement. A concession by the Prime Minister towards this limited step must be presented in such a way as to leave no doubt about the Government's opposition to stages two and three of the Delors report. Joining the ERM is a single step. The latter stages of Delors, let alone closer political union, are a quite different question.

HAIL AND FAREWELL

The Inner London Education Authority will cease to exist at midnight tomorrow. Every enthusiast for London's history must shed a nostalgic tear. Last relic of the London County Council, it represented a noble tradition of public educational administration stretching back to the London School Board of 120 years ago. Like many institutions, it had grown bloated and wasteful. As with most, the day had perhaps come to call time and start with something fresh. Would that central government were able to show similar radicalism in its approach to its own bureaucratic structures.

The 12 London boroughs which assume control of London's one thousand schools on Monday can either show that small is beautiful, or prove that aggrandisement occurs wherever two or three Civil Servants are gathered together. They must shun the politics that so often rack their business and look to classroom performance as the measure of achievement. Schools are judged by the competence of their children as they leave for the outside world. The most substantial argument for ending Ilea is that it had simply failed the test. Too many pupils left unable to read or write properly, badly served by teachers many of whom were more concerned with the demo than the classroom.

The boroughs have now been given a rare show of confidence by Whitehall. Ilea died on the sword of political revenge wielded by Mr Norman Tebbit and Mr Michael Heseltine during the debates on the Education Reform Bill. They seemed scarcely to care that they were handing education in the capital over to many even more left-wing councils than Ilea. In boroughs such as Camden, Hackney, Lambeth and Southwark, teaching unions are likely to prove as intractable to sensible school

management as they were under Ilea. The test of competence lies in the administrators.

The idea that the death of Ilea will save money is already in shreds, although there is no denying that it was expensive. It spent more per head on pupils than other authorities but achieved poorer results: £2,610 a head a year in 1987-88 with 16.1 per cent of pupils achieving five or more GCSE passes. By contrast, the London Borough of Bexley spent £1,530 to secure a 27.9 per cent pass mark. To be fair, Ilea faced a tougher task: increasing numbers of pupils from ethnic minorities, many of them using English as a second language, some unable to speak it at all.

The inner London boroughs are expected to spend £1,156.6 million this coming year, £36.6 million more than Ilea estimates it would have spent. There is nothing inherently wrong in this, provided the results justify the expenditure. The essence of decentralization in government is that lower-tier administration should cost less than centralized hierarchies. This should certainly be the case with schools, institutions whose need for outside management should in theory be strictly limited — as it is in the private sector. Education, like the navy, should be "front-end loaded".

The job now is to spend money in the classroom not the office, to move resources from secretary to teacher, to show that the new structure will be more alive to the needs of the families in their areas. If the boroughs fail, they will not have the historical excuses of Ilea. The Government believes that London's Labour-controlled boroughs are as anxious to prove they can run their own schools as the more high-profile Conservative authorities. Now they must prove it.

WHEN PIGS HAVE WINGS

The idea of a fullscale war of the airwaves between Cuba and the United States adds to the gaiety of nations. The first salvoes were fired this week when TV Marti, a television station founded with US Government backing to bring American news, views and baseball games to the Cuban people, began test broadcasts from Miami beamed direct into Cuba's Channel 13. Cuba promptly jammed the signal, and threatens to retaliate by beaming its own programmes into American homes.

There is something irresistibly comic in the thought of President Fidel Castro's interminable speeches blotting news, chat-shows and sit-coms from the radios of US citizens from Florida to Utah. President Castro, what is more, seems oddly alive to the severity of the pain his diatribes are capable of inflicting. Cuba's first warning shot took the form of a live, three-hour Castro harangue which swamped some of Florida's most popular rock stations.

The Cubans' sensitivity to what they have been quick to dub "a Bay of Pigs of the air" is understandable. Cuba's tightly censored media had little time for film of the downfall of Romania's President Ceausescu, let alone the jubilation of Nicaraguan voters. Most repressive governments are hyper-sensitive to the power of the visual image.

The trouble with the plan, which builds on the success of Radio Marti, its five-year-old sister station, is that while jamming radio is difficult and expensive, blocking TV transmission has so far proved child's play: all the Cubans have to do is run a test pattern on the channel at a cost of \$100 a night. Technically, Cuba is even within its rights, since "unwarranted interference" on a domestic channel constitutes jamming under International Telecommunications Union regulations.

American technicians in Miami believe that they will eventually be able to circumvent Cuban jamming; but meantime, US broadcasters are taking President Castro's threats of retaliation seriously. To turn the tables by beaming TV signals to the US would cost Cuba

a fortune and would be technically feasible only for Florida. US radio, however, is more vulnerable, particularly as so much broadcasting is local radio, campus and city stations using medium wave at relatively low power. Cuba could, for a modest £250,000 a year, disrupt these broadcasts in up to 30 states of the Union.

Cuba is believed to have two powerful 500 kilowatt transmitters, which would be adequate for the job; if, as expected, Radio Moscow ceases most of its regional broadcasts from Cuba this month, that would free more long-range capacity. American enthusiasm for TV Marti's efforts to promote the free flow of information in Havana could be decidedly dampened by a sustained diet of Cuban propaganda at home.

The comedy underlines the isolation of the Western hemisphere's communist redoubt. It is significant that China has been loud in its applause of Cuban defiance: the good ship Goddess of Democracy, from which Chinese dissidents plan to broadcast uncensored news to China, arrives off the South China coast from France next month. China has been jamming Voice of America and some BBC World Service broadcasts since the Tiananmen Square massacre, putting it in a lonely club with Cuba and, intermittently, Iraq as the last of the committed jammers. (North Korea keeps news out by preventing its citizens from owning radios capable of reaching beyond the thoughts of President Kim Il Sung.)

Elsewhere, after nearly 70 years, jamming has finally gone out of fashion. In the Soviet Union, Pravda reported this month, the transmitters used for its 50-year-old round-the-clock jamming operations (which cost it, to block the BBC alone, an estimated \$800 million a year) are being converted to build up local broadcasting services. Short term, President Castro can enjoy playing the joker; but technology, coupled with the curiosity of his information-starved citizens, will ultimately have the last laugh.

Poll tax anomaly over lettings

From Mr John Trenchard
Sir, I am told by the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea that they propose to charge the owners of second homes twice the community charge. This would be the case only if there were no other individual, for example a tenant, living in the property. If there were such a person he or she would be liable to payment at the standard rate.

If a landlord had purchased a second home for letting he would pay no community charge if it were let, but twice the charge for any year, during which it was empty. If he owned a large building divided into self-contained units for letting, he would have to pay twice the community charge on each empty unit.

In a weak rental market this would ruin most landlords; the fear that such circumstances could occur would deter any potential landlord from acquiring residential property to let.

This would rapidly lead to the stagnation of the private residential letting market when one had assumed the Government's intention to be to encourage this market through the introduction of BES (business expansion scheme) assured shorthold tenancies.

Apart from the evident injustice, one can but wonder at the inevitable administrative chaos which would result from attempts to extract a community charge from tenants, many of them foreign, whose tenancies were for periods of months rather than years. In any given year increasingly complicated (and no doubt disputed) calculations would have to be undertaken to ascertain for what part of that year a landlord should be charged twice and for what part a tenant should be charged at the standard rate. An enormous amount of investigative work would be required to gather information, which would often be impossible to verify.

The effect of this double charge will be to make it impossible for many people to find rented accommodation in the neighbourhood, thereby causing irreparable harm to the community.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN TRENCHARD (Partner),
Chapellons (Estate Agents, Valuers and Surveyors),
77 Royal Hospital Road,
Chelsea, SW3.
March 28.

School uniforms

From Mrs Marian Jeffery
Sir, Mrs Melina Treasure (March 28) lists some very valid arguments of school uniform, but omits what I consider the most important point.

The detested school uniform of my childhood made plying from classrooms or classrooms almost unheard of, since every item of clothing and sports gear was standard regulation uniform, and all items equally undesirable.

All my daughters have all attended our local comprehensive school where, because of security difficulties, there are no facilities to store personal items centrally, and they have to carry everything, coats, PE kit, domestic science gear and books from room to room during the day, and home again in the evening. The resulting luggage is sometimes almost too heavy for me to lift, and some of the smaller 11-year-olds must find life very difficult. I wonder what its effect is on their physical development.

Yours faithfully,
MARIAN JEFFERY,
7 Raven Drive,
Barnet, Essex.
March 28.

The Bazoff affair

From The Editor of The Observer
Sir, To accuse someone of causing a man's death is a very serious matter. To do so in the case of Fazzad Bazoff, an innocent reporter and friend, is even worse. For Peregrine Worsthorne to repeat the charge (March 29) after admitting that the factual basis was false — and that I'd been misquoted — smacks of obsession.

He now says: "The Observer agreed that Mr Bazoff should go to Iraq as their accredited representative. Without that accreditation, he would not have gone." Both these statements are false. The Observer gave him no accreditation; none was required. His invitation was personal and he was certainly going anyway.

Yours,
DONALD TREFORD,
The Observer,
Chelsea Bridge House,
Queenstown Road, SW8.
March 29.

Young offenders

From Mr M. Logan-Salton
Sir, The Chief Probation Officer, Middlesex Area (March 27), claims that a decline in the proportionate use of custody is enabling young offender institutions to be closed.

Such closures cannot be welcomed while large numbers of young offenders are being sent to adult prisons. The Home Office has announced that the former Medomsley Detention Centre, Co. Durham, is to be sold, but young people from the age-group it served, are still sent regularly to Victorian conditions at Durham Prison.

The Green Paper should be a welcome breath of fresh air for probation service stuck in a 1960s

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

All the world's a Globe and Rose

From Mr Sam Wanamaker
Sir, Sheridan Morley (Diary, March 26) is rightly concerned that there is a danger of "hickering" among those interested in the Shakespearean playhouse sites on London's South Bank.

However, we have every reason to believe that Hanson plc, the site owners, English Heritage, the Secretary of State for the Environment, the Museum of London and the Georgian Group will all co-operate to ensure that the unique and extraordinary Globe, of international significance, will be fully excavated, conserved, and put on display for future generations. We believe, with Mr Morley, that it is administratively efficient and sensible to embrace under one management several physically separated sites on one homogeneous theme.

The future of the Rose has been secured by an iron-clad section 52 agreement between Imry Merchant Developments plc and Southwark Borough Council which sets down very strict conditions and obligations for the developers. What remains to be agreed by Imry and Southwark is which organisation will administer and operate the Rose for the benefit of the public.

On the basis of its pioneering 20-year commitment and dedication to Bankside's heritage, the Shakespeare Globe Trust believes it is the appropriate organisation to carry out this responsibility. Its

proposals, which have now been submitted to Imry, have been made with the clear understanding that the Rose Trust join with the Globe Trust and together administer the Rose site. We are very concerned that two separate bodies raising funds from limited resources for similar projects a few yards apart could lead, in Mr Morley's words, to "intercine warfare".

At the suggestion of Simon Hughes, MP, chairman of the Rose Trust, heads of agreement between the Rose and the Globe under the proposed merged name of the Shakespeare Globe and Rose Trust have been presented to the Rose Trust as a basis for the pooling of energies to work together for our common objectives.

We see no reason why these two groups should not be joined together in the massive effort of preserving, protecting and enhancing the historic sites, museums, exhibitions and theatres which will make up the core of Bankside's "Shakespeare-land" or — as we prefer to call it — "Shakespeare's London".

Yours faithfully,
SAM WANAMAKER
(Founder and Executive Vice-Chairman),
International Shakespeare Globe Centre,
Bear Gardens, Bankside,
Liberty of the Clink,
Southwark, SE1.
March 28.

Road pricing

From the Director-General of the CBI
Sir, The Chartered Institute of Transport's report on road pricing (Diary, March 22) is a valuable contribution to the debate on how to overcome the problems of urban traffic congestion, which is currently costing every household considerably more than £10 a week.

Road pricing may indeed be an idea whose time has come. As the CBI said in its report, "Trade Routes to the Future", carefully controlled experiments should be set up in selected urban areas. If this were done in areas where public transport is considered adequate, we would be able to see whether direct charging is a practical proposition and whether it makes the expected impact on congestion.

Common land threat

From the Chairman of the Ramblers' Association
Sir, Henry Clemons (March 26) is rightly anxious for the Government's proposed law for common land, as recommended by the Common Land Forum. Why the delay?

We fear that ministers are trying to appease the Moorland Association, a small group of grouse-moor owners, which came into being belatedly to oppose the Common Land Forum's compromise.

The Moorland Association demands that on heather-moorland commons — one third of the area of English commons — people should be restricted to footpaths. The forum — which included the Country Landowners' Association

— agreed a right to roam on all commons subject to commonsense regulations and that in exceptional circumstances a common might have a different arrangement, subject to ministerial approval.

The grouse-moor restrictions are intrinsically wrong. But worse, they will, if promoted by Government, have a knock-on effect on the other compromises between a variety of different interests which composed the forum's consensus. If the grouse-moor owners get their way, others will want theirs, and ministers will have thrown away the best chance yet of settling the future of a million and a half acres of commons.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN BANHAM,
Director-General,
Confederation of British Industry,
Centre Point,
103 New Oxford Street, WCI.
March 22.

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Yours faithfully,
CHRISTOPHER HALL, Chairman,
The Ramblers' Association,
1-5 Wandsworth Road, SW8.

Bar Council rules

From Mr Dominic Chambers
Sir, In his letter of March 23, questioning whether the rule preventing employed barristers from accepting instructions directly from members of the public was legally enforceable by the Bar Council or the Inns of Court, Mr Neil Addison relied largely on *Bennett v Hale*, 1850.

That case was considered by three High Court judges in the case of *In re T (a Barrister)* [1982] 1 Q.B. 430. It was there concluded that the Bar's code of conduct was rightly determined by the profession itself and that the rules preventing barristers in private practice from accepting instructions directly from lay clients were legally enforceable. It follows that similar rules applying to employed barristers are equally enforceable.

Yours faithfully,
DOMINIC CHAMBERS,
1 Hare Court,
Temple, EC4.

Letter of the law

From Mr Nicholas Storey
Sir, Recently I prepared a draft of quite a long, formal document for a solicitor's use in relation to my family. The only alteration which he had made to it (when it appeared in typescript) was the substitution of "I" for "me" in the phrase "to my husband and me". I wonder what his fee will be. I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
NICHOLAS STOREY,
42 Manor Park Road, N2.
March 28.

Ilea chief's hit at St Paul's

From the Leader of the Inner London Education Authority
Sir, I refer to the Bishop of London's comments (report, March 28) deploring my reading from Scripture at St Paul's Cathedral.

I am advised by those who know about these things that the only reading from the Bible at the Church of England recognises it, the first reading having been taken from the Apocrypha, and neither of the texts St Paul's selected was in the lectionary for the day.

How strange, then, that when the bishop hears from the book he is employed to promote, he protests. Does he not accept that the whole Bible is suitable for use in services?

As a result of my choice of text, the Bible has been quoted on the front page of *The Times*. This surely should be welcomed by the bishop, as should the discovery expressed by non-Christians that my reading shows the Bible can speak with powerful relevance to today's political issues.

The service, as planned by the St Paul's dean and chapter, failed, in my opinion, to convey, *inter alia*, the deep hurt and anger of Londoners over Ilea's undesired abolition on March 31. Any bereavement should acknowledge such powerful emotions. But the original readings were inappropriate to the many people who were carrying such emotions and the service was at risk of being turned completely into an Anglo-Catholic ritualised celebration, with Parry's "I Was Glad" and hymns which did not fit the occasion.

Even my intended introduction to the service booklet, quoting *McClure's History of Education in Inner London*, was censored by St Paul's.

In these circumstances, it was my duty to select a reading, such as from Isaiah, which had meaning, rather than Luke ii, 41 to the end about Jesus teaching in the temple. As the bishop knows full well, that passage is shortly followed by Luke iv, in which Jesus also runs into opposition from the establishment at a service in Nazareth by reading from Isaiah.

Yours,
NEIL FLETCHER, Leader,
Inner London Education Authority,
The County Hall, SE1.
March 28.

Embryo research

From Lady Oppenheimer
Sir, Cardinal Hume writes (article, March 16) as if he had the choice, either to treat an early embryo as a miniature human being, or to cause its death for the benefit of humanity. His case, that the end cannot justify the means, cannot be answered by reiterating what a lot of good can come from these deaths.

But the choice is a false one. Pre-embryos are human and they are, of course, beings; but to think of them as "human beings" in the sense of "members of the human community" with an inborn right to life would seem to give them the right to be implanted, a right which nature's prodigality is far from suggesting.

A fertilized egg, *in vivo* or *in vitro*, that is not implanted is going to die without anybody's decision to destroy it and however much its sacredness is respected.

The opportunity we now have is to allow some of these departures to be reverently studied; as we are already allowed, at the other end of life, to study the dead bodies of human beings whose membership of our community has come to an end.

Yours faithfully,
HELEN OPPENHEIMER,
L'Aiguillon, Grouville,
Jersey, Channel Islands.
March 22.

Sneak preview

From Mr Peter Cotes
Sir, Mr Clough (March 20) mentions the fact that both Tony Benn and Lord Lawson saw their own obituaries before they were printed.

My friend, George Wood (the music-hall star, better known as Wee George Wood) went one better than either of the others by writing his own obituary and then, after recording it for posterity, seriously requesting the BBC to let his own voice be heard, reading it on the night his own death occurred.

Yours truly,
PETER COTES,
Savage Club,
9 Fitzmaurice Place,
Berkley Square, W1.
March 21.

Captive market

From Dr John Doherty
Sir, Traffic jams in Rome rival those of Lagos (Diary, March 20) for entrepreneurial activity. This morning, driving to my office, which overlooks the Colosseum, I was able to have the car windows washed, buy paper handkerchiefs and a newspaper. I turned down offers of flowers, cigarette lighters, and sun-glasses.

Delays, due to road repairs for the World Cup, allowed me to read the whole newspaper and arrive refreshed, well informed and only an hour late.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN DOHERTY,
Via Clesio 13,
Casal Palocco,
Rome 00124, Italy.
March 21.

THE ARTS

Quality control and new ideas

Government proposals, devolving to the regions many of the responsibilities of the Arts Council, have led to the resignation of Luke Rittner as Secretary-General. The council's chairman, Peter Palumbo, suggests fresh roles for his organization

I have been Chairman of the Arts Council for one year during which I have visited every part of the country. It was quickly plain to me that the regions knew their own business - that they knew the characteristics of their own people and place. The devolution which the Minister for the Arts, Richard Luce, proposes to the Regional Arts Boards is richly deserved. But it depends crucially on the factor of accountability. In the Minister's letter to me explaining his decisions, he wrote: "The major shift of financial resources to the Regional Arts Boards makes the strengthening of the system of accountability even more imperative."

It is imperative that the Regional Boards' autonomy in granting, and the standards they set in assessing potential clients and deploying available resources, stand up to scrutiny by the council. It is right that Regional Arts Boards should allocate their own funds. But the council will devise a unitary structure to be applied by each Regional Board when assessing applications for funds - all this within a national strategy for the arts, to be formulated by the council in close consultation with our regional partners and other interested parties.

Cynics have dismissed talk of national strategy as ministerial word-spinning. To console the council for the loss of its grant-giving clout to the Regional Boards, not so. The Arts Council remains the principal champion of the arts in negotiating central government funding, and also remains responsible for the great flagship national companies, and for others outside London, as well as touring and innovation.

We shall also be discussing many new projects. Here are some of them:

I think it essential to re-evaluate the definition of national companies, to include centres of excellence outside London. Companies with such national status, perhaps 20 in number, would be given protected funding for a minimum period of three years. Then they would be rigorously assessed to determine whether or not they should be invited to remain on the top table.

The stock of buildings that constitute the cultural fabric of the nation, including cathedrals, leave much to be desired in terms of their structural condition and essential artistic facilities. The council will quantify necessary repair and buildings projects, to construct a policy for the cultural fabric of the nation for completion



Peter Palumbo in front of the Henry Moore altar in the City of London church of St Stephen Walbrook

by the millennium. I hope that Government will agree to meet a substantial part of the cost of any such programme, thus ensuring a full partnership between the public and private sectors in the achievement of a common objective.

The Government has already taken the first tentative steps in this direction; I hope that the process will be accelerated. This would remove an enormous burden from those responsible for the upkeep of these buildings, leaving them to devote their attention to operating costs and to the establishment of endowment funds for future maintenance.

The Arts Council has not,

hitherto, admitted architecture as an art form. This seems nonsense to me. I hope to see an architecture department established as part of the Visual Arts Department of the council, leading to the establishment of an architectural award scheme and a series of competitions designed both to improve standards of excellence - in housing, say - and to enhance visual awareness.

A computerized Arts Register should be established. This would ensure that the council maintains a comprehensive database of information about the arts.

This year Glasgow is the European City of Culture. I propose that a similar designation should

be given annually between now and the millennium to a city or district which would become our national "City/District of Culture" for that year - and further identifying that city or district with a given art form. In Halifax, for example, as the new home of the Northern Ballet Theatre, it would clearly be dance.

Finally, the Arts Council will continue to develop its own TV arts channel; and the year 2000 should be designated "The Year of the Artist", as homage to, and official acknowledgement of, the crucial role that artists play in society.

English Heritage class: page 3

Sharp impressions

THEATRE
Benedict Nightingale

Singer
The Pit

WHETHER you find Peter Flannery's play exhilarating or outrageous - and on Wednesday night's evidence it is both - you will probably agree that it unleashes a magnificent performance from Antony Sher, forceful and inventive, authoritative and magnetic: a blend of lizard, Mr Punch, Shylock, and Timon of Athens which few other actors could attempt, let alone achieve.

Sher's Singer, alter ego of the infamous Rachman, begins his Hogarthian evolution or burlesque *Pilgrim's Progress* in Auschwitz: a grey, quaking creature stumbling to life at the smell of soup. Then it's off to England, to become an ingratiating spiv, bringing a tinpot swagger to deals precariously made from a public phone box.

Up and up he clambers, exuding reptilian watchfulness, impish glee and (finally) a terrible arrogance as he corners the eviction market and crashes the upper classes. Yet one can never say that there is an emotional vacuum beneath the sleazy charisma, the cynicism and feral self-contempt.

Indeed, Sher spends the play's second half shifting from feeling to feeling. Resurrected from a watery grave, he first turns revenger, confronting the elderly Ukrainian who compelled him to beat a communist half to death with a stricken yell of "why did you do it to me?"

Then he is seen trudging exhausted among the homeless and hungry, a Rachman turned Profumo - only to get back his

old glint and glitter as he is summoned to Downing Street and assured that the trouble with his housing policies was that they were before their time.

Does all this cohere into a dramatic whole? Aided by Terry Hands's pacey, imaginative production, Sher somehow jostles, pummels and dazzles you into believing so.

Moreover, one becomes increasingly aware of Flannery's considerable (and conscious) debt to the Jacobean who was never afraid to veer from realism to cartoon, and felt no need to explain behaviour psychologically.

The result is a big, gaudy, complex play, partly an impressionistic portrait of post-war Britain, partly a meditation on the aftermath of the Holocaust. As the former, it is admittedly wanting.

Say what you may against Mrs Thatcher, the "great housekeeper" who courts the rehabilitated Singer, present her supporters as heaving monsters if you must; but she is hardly likely to privatize council estates as concentration camps for the homeless.

Luckily, the play leaves us with ideas more stimulating than such paranoid prophesy. It is not for nothing that Singer has as friends an artist (Mick Ford) who remembers almost everything, and a brain-damaged communist (Malcolm Storry), who forgets almost everything. Indeed, it is true subject is just that: memory.

How are those who have suffered them to cope with the monstrosities of 20th-century history? How are they to avoid being brutalized like Singer? Should they try to forget, and risk erosion within? Or forgive, atone for the guilt they unjustly feel? Or what? Forty years after the end of Nazism, the questions reverberate still.

Played to perfection

CONCERT
Richard Morrison

Emerson Quartet
Wigmore Hall

THE only possible reaction, after hearing the Emerson Quartet playing Bartók, was a gulp. Perhaps a little rubbing of eyes and ears in disbelief was also permitted.

For this was the perfect interpretation. The savage mingled with the subtle. Rampant power balanced a shining textural clarity. Uncannily precise rapport was abundant, yet a sense of mystery, too: a feeling that the players were tapping subconscious forces within themselves and us.

They were playing Bartók's Fourth Quartet. Here, the moods of ferocity, fever and hallucination are first evoked in a terrifying succession of movements, then reversed in a fastidiously crafted mirror-image. Bartók may have been a wild-eyed visionary, but he was also a mathematician.

The Emersons rightly seized on this paradox of split personality as the key to the music. In the process, this great American ensemble also demonstrated another paradoxical truth about playing music of this stupendous difficulty: that the reward of absolute technical discipline is ultimate interpretative freedom.

Two instances of this will long stay in the memory: the cellist David Finckel's marvellously supple yet exact projection of his sad soliloquy, heavy with Magyar inflections, in the middle "night music" movement; and the four players' remarkable tempo and timbre variations in the pizzicato movement, achieved as if by telepathy.

By comparison, the playing of Mozart and Schubert, earlier in Wednesday's recital, was merely very good. The Emersons adopted a light, elegant and sophisticated approach to Mozart's D minor Quartet, K421, tending to isolate each phrase like a museum curator casting a torch beam on some intricate and delicate piece of porcelain. That, however, suited the mood of this work, in which Mozart himself seems to be a slightly detached curator, guarding the classical gestures of Haydn and earlier masters.

The finest playing in Schubert's A minor Quartet, D804, came at its shadowy and ominous start. The stuttering bass notes were articulated as dryly and inexorably as a death rattle, and the arpeggio backcloth was made to sound very world-weary, while over it the first violin sang out one of Schubert's most ethereal melodies like some exotic bird flying over a bleak landscape.

The Emerson Quartet return to the Wigmore tonight.

Agreeable but thin

DANCE
John Percival

Peer Gynt
The Place

KIM Brandstrup's *Peer Gynt* for his own Arc Dance Company is, like his recent *Orfeo* for London Contemporary Dance Theatre, an advance on his early works in setting out to tell a specific story. But to say that is to some extent an act of faith, because his narrative method is naive and confusing.

The idea of showing the myth enacted by peasants, which he expounded to Debra Craine in an interview on this page last week, simply does not make itself apparent. Rather, this is a rather simplified version of Ibsen's plot with much doubling of roles.

What is surprising and disappointing is to find all the roles so thinly characterized. The Troll Princess makes an impression because Aletta Collins combines a strong personality with a solid shape, unexpected for such gambolesque entries. Lauren Potter as Solveig and Jonathan Lunn as a priest are experienced performers who impose some sort of presence on very slight material.

But nobody else, not even Peer (Michael Fulwell) really comes over with much definition or impact. This must be partly because of the cramped style of Brandstrup's choreography: full of steps which bend or turn back.

As in *Orfeo*, he relies mostly on repetition of very simple passages to provide shape and pattern. Another device carried over from *Orfeo* is that of using a raised platform across the stage for some entries. It is less heavily played upon here (the priest and Solveig and the characters associated with it), but moving the platform from the back of the stage to the front accounts for an intermission that is longer than the second act.

The one point which comes over in the production is a degree of identification between Peer's



Peer Gynt: with Lauren Potter (left) and Michael Fulwell

sweetheart Solveig and his mother Aase. But even this potentially interesting link is undercut, partly because Aase herself lacks presence, either through the sentiment or the humour of earlier dance productions, and partly because of a similar relationship between Peer and the harem dancer Anitra.

The work is danced to a score specially written by Ian Dearden and Sarah Collins, and played by them with Chris Humming. Provided that one does not expect a work of the symphonic interest that Schnittke provided for Neumeier's mastery Hamburg production, this is agreeable music. Craig Givens provides sober, elegant costumes; I could have wished for something more flamboyant to help identify characters, but perhaps Brandstrup did not want that.

4 OSCAR WINNER

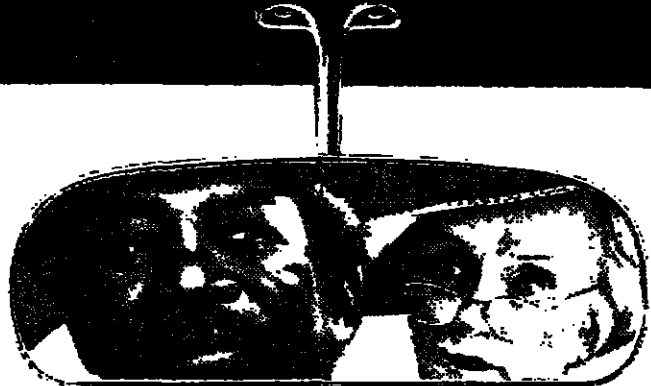
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NOW PREVIEWING

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'LOOK LOOK'

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LOOK LOOK

LOOK LOOK

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LOOK LOOK

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LOOK LOOK

OSCAR WINNER

BEST ACTOR

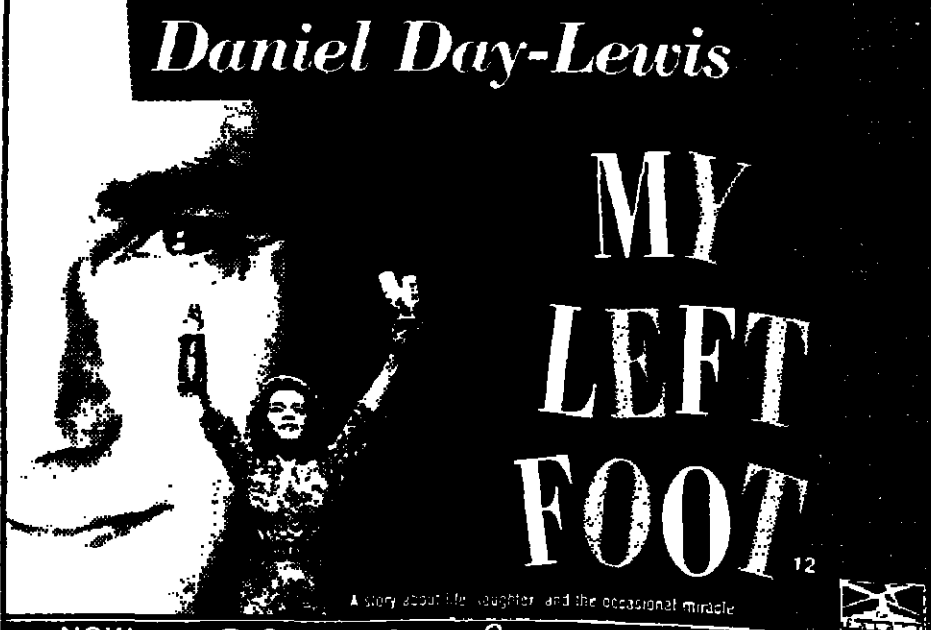
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THE ARTS

John Russell Taylor reports on the great double exhibition which forms the centrepiece of Van Gogh's centenary year celebrations in the Netherlands

Vincent complete

Is it possible that there is anything new to know or think about Vincent van Gogh? That question must have troubled the Dutch authorities as the centenary of his death approached. Clearly something impressive was needed to mark 1990 as Van Gogh Year. But what?

The last decade has seen virtually the whole of his brief, busy career covered in four comprehensive shows: the Arles period (New York, 1984), Saint-Rémy and Auvers (New York, 1986), Van Gogh in Brabant (Hertogenbosch, 1987), and Van Gogh in Paris (Musée d'Orsay, 1988). At the same time, world-record prices for Van Gogh's in the auction houses have ensured that the painter is ever higher in the public consciousness.

There is an immense programme of linked events in The Netherlands throughout the year, including two Van Gogh operas, a festival of Van Gogh films, and innumerable shows, sometimes dragged in by prodigies of special pleading. The Frans Hals show, for instance, is alleged to fit into its imminent Haarlem setting because it concerns "the admiration Van Gogh felt for... Hals".

But at the centre of it all is the tremendously imposing two-part show which fills the newly refitted Van Gogh

Museum in Amsterdam and occupies most of the Kröller-Müller Museum in Otterlo until July 29. These are being given the full showbiz treatment, with advance bookings for particular hours on particular days, and a free shuttle-bus between the two.

Is it worth the trek? For anyone remotely interested in Van Gogh the answer is undoubtedly yes. The Otterlo section imposes itself largely by force of numbers. Devoted exclusively to Van Gogh's drawings and works on paper, and running to some 250 separate works, it is the largest ever.

The Amsterdam part impresses, rather, by its extreme and principled selectivity. The point that the organizers make is that we ignore at our peril what Van Gogh thought of his own work, and the distinctions he made between the finished, canonical works and the numerous sketches and studies. Van Gogh indicated these again and again in his letters to his brother and his dealings with the market. But they have been obscured by the recent tendency to lump everything together, as though it does not matter what the artist wanted to show.

As a reaction to this inclusive view, the Amsterdam show includes only those works which clearly had Van Gogh's own imprimatur. This is not, of course, the only permissible view: the artist may

not be the best critic of his own work, and the art historian can find endless interest in the false starts and discarded preparatory work. But it is illuminating, just for once, to see things as nearly as possible the way Van Gogh wanted us to see them. Moreover, this concentration on major, finished work has other advantages, clarifying the development by removing the undergrowth.

We know that Van Gogh's development, stylistic and spiritual, was phenomenal, in a career which really covered only 10 years. But here is the evidence: the extraordinary strides he took towards self-discovery, sometimes in a matter of days and even between the completion of a painting which pleased him and the beginning of a replica which, whether he intended it or not, carried him a few important stages further.

Because Van Gogh's work is so well known, at least in reproduction, there are not necessarily many works that are totally unfamiliar. But the placing of famous works within this strictly controlled context brings new vividness.

The only slight disappointment here is probably unavoidable, given the present frenzy for conservation: all the pictures except a handful (those from the Musée d'Orsay are a surprising and honourable exception) are under glass. Some, admittedly, are under satisfactorily non-reflecting glass. But even the best glass keeps one, psychologically as well as physically, at arm's-length from the pictures. With Van Gogh, the almost sculptural quality of the paint, the very physical abundance with which it is piled on to the canvas, plays an important part in our appreciation. The two pictures, a portrait and a landscape, from the John Hay Whitney Collection, bowl us over with their immediacy largely because glass does not intrude.

If the Amsterdam part of the show may seem too extreme in its insistence



Early idea: "Young man crouching, with sickle", an 1881 drawing by Vincent van Gogh from the exhibition at Otterlo

on finish, and thus its implied downgrading of the preparatory work, the Otterlo part makes amends. More often than not the drawings and watercolours were intended as try-outs for subjects which were then going to be masterfully re-handled in oils.

It does not seem clear whether Van Gogh himself regarded any of them as self-sufficient works. Yet many of these impromptu drawings are deeply satisfying works of art in their own right, quite apart from the fascination which resides in being able to see the processes of creation — the way Van Gogh's mind

and hand worked in front of a subject.

If you see both halves of the show in the same day, which is desirable, view the drawings first. Then you can carry over memories (assisted by a splendid two-volume catalogue, which illustrates everything) of the first thoughts, to compare with the definitive working in paint. But then, go back to Otterlo and look again at the drawings. Observe how brilliantly subjects which seem inseparable from the richness and complexity of colour and paint are resolved naturally and completely in a pattern of dots and dashes, and squiggles of brown ink.

Many of the earlier drawings — of grimy allotments and apparently dull canal banks, or of smoky suburban prospects around Paris — also fascinate because the ideas contained in them never got any further in Van Gogh's "official" work. It is astonishing how far he moved between 1880 and 1890, but that cannot blind us to the extraordinary originality and force of his vision before he had even started on his pilgrimage.

Information may be obtained, and tickets may be booked, through the Netherlands Tourist Board (01-630 3451).

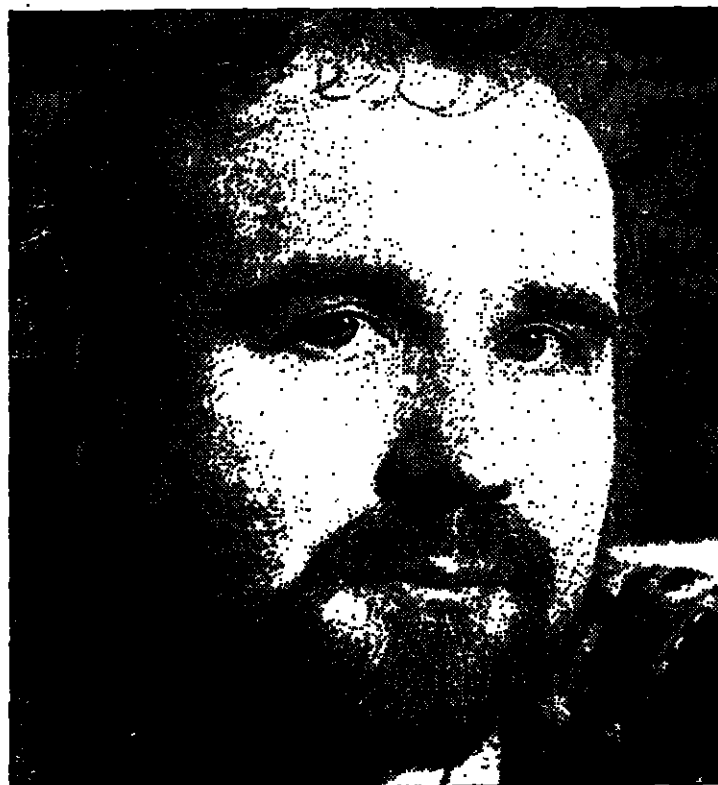
John Russell Taylor's recommendations of other current shows:

IN FOCUS: The National Gallery's recent acquisition, Casper David Friedrich's "Winter Landscape", is revealingly put in its context of early German Romanticism. National Gallery (01-839 3321) continuing until May 20.

LATE FROST: Terry Frost, still as lively as ever in his seventies, looks increasingly like the best of the free-form abstractionists who gathered in St Ives in the 1950s. Small retrospective, 1948-1989, at Mayor Gallery (01-734 3558) until April 21.

TUBULAR BELLES: William Roberts, brilliant World War I artist, who is however best remembered for his later style, featuring robot-like figures out of some futurist Toy Town. Miscellaneous of smaller works at Gillian Jason (01-267 4835) until April 27.

OIL AND VINEGAR: Max Beerbohm was always adept at delicate malice in his drawing, but deadly, cartoons of eminent artists, of which a selection is on show here. Piccadilly Gallery (01-499 0431) until April 12.



John Martyn: sacrificing individuality in order to find success?

John Martyn: The Apprentice (Permanent PERM CD1)

JOHN Martyn's first studio album since *Piece by Piece* in 1986 comes as something of a surprise. Although the rough edges in his music have been gradually eroded over some time, this is such a mature collection of soft, post-Sade jazz-rock that it has taken on a distinctly bland, cocktail-lounge flavour.

That is not to deny the excellence of the performances, especially by saxophonists Colin Tulley and Andy Sheppard, nor the sterling work of an uncredited upright bass player whose warm, tripping patterns underpin the supper-club soul melodies of "Upo" and "The Moment" with cool élan.

The only detectable remains of the beer-sodden incubus which once haunted Martyn's music is in the singing, which occasionally takes on a familiar slurred and emotional quality. However, where this occurs, as on the gently meandering "The River", it is

always reined in well before it threatens to upset the sophisticated calm of the overall ambience.

Martyn has been stuck on the fringes of British rock for a very long time and it would be churlish to complain about him taking a shot at the big league where so many of his old chums (Phil Collins, Eric Clapton, Robert Palmer *et al*) have taken up such comfortable residence. It is just a shame that, apart from a live recording of "Income Town" and one or two sprightlier moments during the title track, it sounds as if he had to be sedated to do it.

Gary Moore: Still got the Blues (Virgin CDV 2612)

THERE is no danger of Gary Moore turning into a mellow fellow. Indeed, this loving homage to the blues music which inspired him to pick up a guitar in the first place is marred primarily by the overpowering lack of restraint which has always characterized Moore's playing.

His massively cranked sound,

ROCK ALBUMS
David Sinclair

combined with the hyperactive zeal of his fret technique, simply leaves no room for the nuances that are essential to the creation of a good blues mood.

When the veteran guitarist Albert King trades solos with Moore on "Oh Pretty Woman", the imbalance of power and technical muscle between King's light, faltering rubber-band sound and Moore's treble banister shriek is laughable.

All the swing is ironed out of Jimmy Rogers' "Walking by Myself" and the haunting motif of Otis Rush's "All Your Love" is transformed into a fair representation of a cat being passed through a mangie.

However, there is a certain charm when Moore pulls out his "Parisienne Walkways" — a symphonic sound on the title track, and he knocks off a respectable

imitation of Peter Green on Albert King's doleful lament "As The Years Go Passing By".

A "back to blues basics" album is a neat idea, but Moore ends up casting himself as the Alvin Lee of the Nineties — a supremely accomplished technician but lacking the vision fully to capitalize on his enviable prowess.

Andy White: Himself (Cooking Vinyl COOK 029)

ANDY White, the folk singer from Belfast, drifts gently in and out of focus on his third album. Although he turns his hand to some mild protest singing, he is not one of those Billy Bragg types feverishly involved at the cutting edge of radical dissent. As if to underline the point, the most overtly political song here, "The Guildford Four", has already been overtaken by events.

His stock-in-trade is more the personal tale of gentle romanticism ("Birds of Passage", "Six String Street") peppered with whimsical post-Dylan observations. "If words are the six strings of a guitar/And the guitar is the story of today/Well I must be the dictionary's tightrope/C'mon look me up in a groovy kind of way", he enjoins in "In a Groovy Kind of Way".

Backed by a full electric band, the Class Men, this is White's most fully realized musical ven-

ture yet, and when the ensemble gets its teeth into the chunky Neil Young-like stride of "Just Jumped out of a Tree", the sparks fly.

Boo-Yaa T.R.I.B.E.: New Fanky Nation (4th & B'way BRLP 544)

THE new rap "sensation" (until next week), Boo-Yaa T.R.I.B.E. are "Six Bad Brothers" of Samoan extraction from the Carson District of Los Angeles.

"Boo-Yaa" is onomatopoeic slang for the blast of a sawn-off shotgun, and in case you were in any doubt that these are Very Tough Guys Indeed, their lyrics revel in graphic details of the notorious LA gangland lifestyle.

There is the inside gen on a drive-by shooting ("Once Upon a Drive By"), all sorts of handy hints on gaining due respect, and a useful demonstration of how to say the m-f word fifty times in one song ("Rated R").

If this unpleasant catalogue of miscreant tosh had been the work of a heavy metal band, condemnation would doubtless have been swift and universal. But pasted on to a succession of drab minimalist Seventies' funk grooves, unembroidered by any fancy sampling or cutting tricks, the Boo-Yaa boys' puerile glorification of violence and sexism has naturally been greeted with immediate and widespread enthusiasm. Don't believe the hype.

WEEKEND GIGS

Compiled by David Sinclair, David Toop, and Rose Rowse

KABA MAINE: A celebration of Nelson Mandela's freedom, played by the excellent singer/guitarist from Guinea-Bissau. Woolwich Public Hall Market Street, London SE18 (01-317 8687) tomorrow, 7.30 pm, 24.

GEOFFREY ORYEMA: Ugandan song-writer and multi-instrumentalist who escaped Idi Amin and now works in Paris. Romée Scott's Club Frith Street, London W1 (01-438 0740) Sunday, 8 pm, 25.

ANNIE GRIFFIN: This show pokes fun at the sexual stereotyping and sentimentality in traditional country and western songs, with a wicked sense of humour. Griffin plays

semantic and body language games with the sub-text of songs like Tammy Wynette's "Almost Persuaded". T & C 2 Highbury Corner, London N1 (01-700 5716), tonight and tomorrow, 7.30 pm, 25.

DONNA AND KEBAB: Cypriot talent night: Donna and Kebab, two female comedienne, Group Genc who play Turkish Cypriot folk music, and Goudon who perform "Rambitika".

Rocket Holloway Road, London N7 (01-607 8940), tonight, 7.30 pm, 25.

TEST DEPARTMENT: Veteran metal-bashers and socialists who spent the last few years collaborating with experimental theatre groups like the Welsh Brith Gof. Together, they put on an elaborate, very noisy and very messy depiction of a Celtic poem called "Goddodin" in a disused car factory in Cardiff. Temporarily

back to being a musical ensemble, their new performance, *The Empire Show*, has them playing obscure wind instruments. Albany Empire Douglas Way, London SE8 (01-691 3333), tonight, 8 pm, 25.

CREOLE: Nineties band of musicians from Dominica and Guadeloupe. The music will be fast, energetic, zouk. Bass Clef Coronet Street, London N1 (01-729 2478) Saturday, 8.30 pm, 25.50.

EARLITA KITT: Eccentric performer of exotic vaudeville routines who has survived into the Nineties by adopting the role of a high-camp disco diva. Beck Theatre Grange Road, Hayes, Middlesex (01-881 8371), tonight, 7.30 pm, £10-£15.

Lewisham Theatre Rushey Green, Catford, London SE8 (01-690 0002) Sunday, 7.30 pm.

Not in black and white

TELEVISION
Sheridan Morley

LAST night's 40 Minutes documentary (BBC 2) had some of the qualities of a good wide-screen thriller. A woman of 27, brought up by white foster-parents in a wealthy Oxfordshire home, decides to search for her real mother, and to discover the truth about her early childhood and why she was taken into care.

We were allowed to see both sides of the picture: the natural mother, ostracized by 1960s society for having a black baby out of wedlock, giving up her daughter; the child, now grown-up and working in the probation service, painfully aware of the problems surrounding black adoption 20 years ago. "I'm afraid she's a little bit more than tinted," said one council officer to the foster parents.

How much of the behaviour of mother and daughter was conditioned by the cameras we shall never know; we do know that the rediscovery of a parent by a child is, for both, a traumatic experience, even (or perhaps especially) after a quarter of a century.

Small Objects of Desire (BBC 2). Kim Filcroft's immensely quirky and engaging series, moved on from the answerphone and the condom to consider the history of the hamburger. Woody Allen once said in a film that he could not face living in

California because its only contribution to world culture had been the legal right turn on a red light. Similarly, I have doubts about living in a land where the most potent symbol of national identity is crushed beef served in circular bits of bread.

But 20 million hamburgers sold worldwide every week must be saying something. McDonalds now runs its own university, where 1,200 Londoners alone were last summer granted degrees in chip-frying. Senior postgraduates reckon 20 seconds to be the optimum time for getting the burger and the fries from oven to mouth.

In Japan, the president of McDonalds believes that if he eats enough hamburgers his skin will turn pure white and his hair blond. In Thailand, they had to invent a whole new ecological system to deal with the changeover from rice to beef.

The pursuit of happiness as decreed by the American constitution now means the freedom to consume hot beef sandwiches at speed: hamburgers are simple, unpretentious, rugged, elemental, egalitarian and anti-intellectual. They are, in short, America.

This Week (ITV) considered the new Health Service white paper. Its implications are significant at a time when one major London hospital, St Mary's, is facing a six-week closure this summer to ease a £2 million deficit, and another, St Thomas's, cannot afford its own stationery any more.

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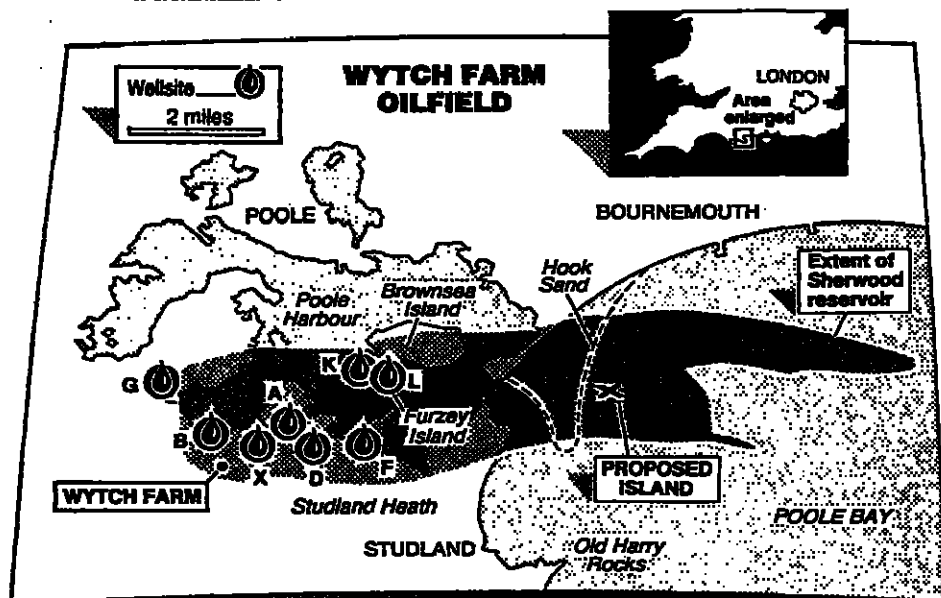


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Will John Bull be given an extra island?

BP is planning to construct a 15-acre artificial island close to one of the most beautiful stretches of coastline in the United Kingdom. George Hill investigates the controversy



The Protector: Barry Guest, head warden of Brownsea Island, which stands above the oilfield and close to BP's planned new development

Nobody has ever counted how many British Isles there are. The expression "the British Isles" is not quantifiable. But whatever the number may be of isles, islets, stacks and skerries that fly the Union Jack today — and it must run into thousands — there is soon likely to be one more. A 15-acre artificial island is planned by BP as the site for an offshore oil-well which the

company is seeking permission to sink just outside the entrance of Poole Harbour, in Dorset.

There could scarcely be a more sensitive coastal spot to sink a well, and scarcely a more sensitive time to announce the proposal. Only last month another oil company, Shell, was fined £1 million for polluting the Mersey, after 156 tons of crude oil leaked from a pipeline which had rusted through, and fouled 12 miles

of beach and foreshore. It had already cost Shell £1.4 million to clean up the mess.

Poole is environmentally far more sensitive than the Mersey. A drifting oil-spill from the well would quickly be smeared by the strong local tides across the sandy beaches of Bournemouth or Studland, or along the foot of the superb chalk cliffs towards Old Harry Rocks. The National Trust owns a reserve of vulnerable heathland at Studland, and

the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds has a sanctuary on the almost island of Arne, inside Poole Harbour. Studland is said to be the only place in Britain where all six species of native reptile can be seen. Brownsea Island is one of the last footholds of the red squirrel in Britain.

The harbour, with its intricate pattern of tidal channels, is popular with yachtsmen, fishermen and other

visitors. Once the pollution had been carried into the oyster-beds and the fingers of tidal water that reach up along Brownsea Roads, Gosport Lake, Blood Alley Lake and a hundred other channels ideal for mud-skipping and learning to sail, the harbour would be marked for ever.

Dorset might be expected to be up in arms over the project, which is already common knowledge in outline, even in advance of the highly-publi-

cized public consultation exercise which BP is to launch soon. But, in fact, the attitude among conservation interests is one of resigned but wary acceptance. The notion of an artificial island even shows signs of catching the imagination of a range of interest-groups who see it as a potential pleasure-park, marina, bird sanctuary or nudist colony.

"An island might be an ideal place for seabirds to colonize," says John Walden, of the RSPB. "Birds like the common tern or roseate tern could benefit from nesting sites away from predators like rats and foxes. We shall have to examine the detailed proposals when they are made, but an island with shingle beaches, with limited public access, might become an important breeding ground."

"Our main concern is to ensure that no harm is done to heathland. Britain has obligations under international law to protect heath, with is very rare elsewhere in Europe. It is the habitat for threatened species like the Dartford warbler and the nightjar."

But one expert voice has been raised in opposition to the proposal. Michael O'Sullivan knows what he is talking about, because he was in overall charge of BP's developments in Dorset until he retired 18 months ago. "The oil industry in Britain has always made the point that it wants to borrow the landscape, and then reinstate everything to the way it was before," he says. "An island would contradict that philosophy."

Dorset was up in arms against the oilmen a dozen years ago, when the plan to develop an oilfield in the heart of an area of great natural beauty was first mooted. But that battle was lost. The Wytch Farm field has been yielding oil for a decade now, and its operating record has calmed many fears. Eight wellheads on the shore of the the harbour, carefully screened behind banks of trees, are linked to the main station at Wytch Farm, which pumps the oil down an overland pipeline to the refinery at Fawley, near Southampton. Precautions against spills are tight, and there has been no significant case of pollution.

The company asserts with pride that on Furzey Island, a 30-acre island beside Brownsea, which also has a population of red squirrels, the number of the animals has risen sixfold since an oilwell was sunk there — probably because they have found an additional food supply in the trees planted to screen the well.

In the 1980s, test drillings out in the bay showed that the field stretched as far under the sea outside the harbour as it did under the harbour itself. Although it is not in the big league of the world's oilfields (it would just make the top 10 in size among the 100 or so fields in the North Sea), it represents an asset which no developer, and few governments, would be willing to let go. The millions of barrels of crude oil under Poole Bay are worth nearly £4 billion at today's prices.

"It would be rather futile to oppose the plan root and branch," says Liz Roberts, regional publicity manager for the National Trust. "We are still waiting to hear the details. We are very pleased with the operation of the field so far, and with the way they have taken on board recommendations we have made. The most sensitive point will be where the pipeline is to go overland, and the provision for pollution control."

Helen Brotherton, chairman of the Dorset Trust for Nature Conservation, takes a similar view. "It is an alarm-

'I am especially concerned for fishermen in the area, but changes in ecology could affect the whole food chain... and if future generations don't like the island, they will be stuck with it'

ing thing to be sitting on top of a great pool of oil which has got to come out," she says. "We have faced the worst, having them here at all. But we have had a long working relationship with them, and find they do what they say. Where their pipelines cross open heath, they have cleverly reinstated the heathland above the buried line. The island is very much the best of the options that BP are putting forward."

John Milverton, chairman of the local branch of the Council for the Protection of Rural England, sees the attractions of an island as a safeguard against oil spills and eventually as a bird sanctuary, but foresees that there might be other claimants to John Bull's extra island. "We don't want an offshore holiday camp there," he says.

The company is expected to put up five options this month for the public to consider. Two are for wells on land — either among the holiday homes on the north side of the harbour mouth, or on Studland heath to the south. Everyone knows that these options are non-starters. The other three options are for installations in the sea, in shallow water out of the way of shipping, to the east of Hook Sand, a bank which already prevents ships and yachts from approaching the harbour directly from the east.

The well — in fact, a radiating fan of wells reaching down from a single point to tap different parts of the field — could be managed from a conventional rig standing on stilts. Alternatively, a floating island or caisson could be towed to the spot and settled on to the sea-bed. When the oilfield is exhausted 20 or 30 years hence, the caisson would be floated away.

The fifth, most unconventional, option would be to create a permanent island, made of gravel or sand inside

a perimeter of rock or concrete. It would need to have a built-in harbour for access, sheltered with arms of rubble, and its area would probably be between 10 and 15 acres.

"The island seems to be the front-runner in the eyes of the public at this stage," says Roger Mowll, BP's development director for Dorset. "When all the technical studies and consultations have been done, we will have to decide what to propose, and it will be for the Secretary of State to decide whether to give planning permission."

"An island would have advantages. It would allow the use of equipment which would not stand up as high as the gantries of a marine rig. It would be big enough to contain large quantities of oil in the remote chance of a leak, and of course it would eliminate the risk that a ship might collide with the well and cause a leakage. And you would have an island to do what you like with."

Mr O'Sullivan is dissatisfied with this. "It is the really big leak that everybody is afraid of," he says. "An island can provide containment for a smallish leak, but a major one would get through to the sea anyway. I want to know where the material is going to come from, and what it will do to the ecology of the sea-bed. I am especially concerned for fishermen in the area, but changes in ecology could affect the whole food chain. We know a lot about steel structures, and we can take them away when we have finished with them. We do not know the consequences of putting an island there, and if future generations don't like it, they'll be stuck with it."

Hamish Green, chief executive of Poole Harbour Commissioners, has few qualms about unpredictable effects. "We have a computer model which shows us the consequences of making changes in the sea-bed, with the impact of storms and tidal currents thrown in. We will be able to run BP's plan through our model, and see what the results would be. I suggested two or three years ago that an island might be the answer, and BP seems to have taken up the idea. If there was an oil rig out there and a ship hit it, oh boy, we'd be in trouble."

The detailed debate has yet to begin, but at the starting-line it seems clear that the island is the front-runner among options for what everyone accepts is an inevitable development. It seems that there is something about an island which appeals to the imagination. Underlying all the rational considerations of profit and loss, is a sense of the magic of conjuring up a somewhere where there is nothing but empty water, and of giving it a name and a function. Should it be a sanctuary for terns, or a holiday camp, or a nudist colony? And who would have the satisfaction of choosing a name for what might prove to be the last new territory to accrue to the British Crown?



Boon for wildlife? Birds such as this tern might benefit

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From ancient Greece to Mrs Miniver, the rose has a complicated message, Sally Brompton says

A rose by every name

The search for the perfect English rose has fascinated artists, connoisseurs and horticulturalists for centuries. A symbol of purity and flawless beauty, it personifies all that is steadfastly unspooled in a world of shifting values. Be it flower or female the perfect English rose is the visual personification of excellence.

Television director Mary Dickinson's own definition of this ultimate treasure is "pale in colour, rather simple and innocent and pure - whatever the age". It is an interpretation she applies to woman and bloom, both of which she studies in depth in tonight's Arena documentary, *The English Rose*.

After interrogating a cross-section of experts, both worldly and whimsical, about the spiritual, historical, horticultural, feminine, and mythical aspects of the rose, Ms Dickinson concludes that roses inspire great passion. In the words of leading rose breeder Jack Harkness: "To me a rose is another living organism with which I share life upon this planet."

"People have an interesting relationship with roses," Ms Dickinson says. "It's a bit of a love affair. You want to nurture them - and, indeed, they require it. They have to be pruned, fed and generally fiddled around with. You want to lavish attention on them."

The programme was inspired by a search for a climbing rose to grow round the front door of her house in Clapham, south-west London. "The rose is so indicative of England," she says. "The term 'English rose' is so much a part of our language and heritage that we take it for granted. So I started to look into it and discovered that there was rather more going on."

The religious connotations of the rose have blossomed over the centuries. The word "rosary" is derived from the Latin for a rose garden, garland or wreath. And the Virgin Mary was known as the Rose of Heaven, causing English rose gardens to be known as Mary gardens. Saint Ambrose, the 4th century bishop of Milan, believed that man's sin gave the rose its thorns, while Tertullian, the early church father, envisaged Heaven as a place full of singing rose bushes.

"A rose is a visual paradox," says religious writer Frances Gurney. "A flower of great beauty, but on a stem of thorn. And that paradox is like a metaphor or allegory of life - almost like light and dark. It has petals of great softness, but symbols of suffering on the side."

"The smell of the rose is also connected with the odour of sanctity, the smell which some very holy people will leave. And there is the tradition of rose petals being strewn in processions during Corpus Christi. At the deepest level, it would be impossible

Playing the English rose in wartime: Greer Garson in the title role of *Mrs Miniver*

to divest the rose of its religious power because it is too beautiful and mysterious for that to happen."

It is significant that those in love with roses tend to refer to them as "she" even when they have such names as Cardinal Hume, Cupid and Duke of Windsor. "I always call them 'she' because they are so beautiful," says Jenny Charlton who, with her husband Don, is currently - and for the ninth time - British amateur champion rose-grower. Her own favourites are Gary Player - "a lovely pink and a frilly, blowsy sort of rose" - and the lilac-pink

and almond-scented Admiral Rodney, which grows paler in the sun.

"I know that many roses are named after famous men but to me the rose always looks like a female," says Mrs Charlton. "Many roses do have a complexion. The depth of the petals reminds me of the complexion of an English beauty."

It is hardly a coincidence that the image of the rose as female runs parallel to that of the rose as fresh-faced English beauty. Nor is the concept a recent one. "The first time it seems to have been referred to is during the 18th century, by

painters like Gainsborough and Reynolds, when they were comparing real English roses with the creamy-skinned, rosy-cheeked women they were painting," says make-up artist Barbara Daly.

A rose was one of the symbols of Erato, the Greek muse of love poetry. "They seem to have been connected with love since the time of the ancient Greeks," says Ms Gurney. "The rose is also an emblem connected with Aphrodite."

Ms Dickinson acknowledges the sexual implications of the rose personified in Chaucer's satirical and sex-

ually explicit *Romaunt of the Rose*, which was based on a 13th century French verse in which the poet dreams that he falls in love with a rosebud, and also in the fairytale of Princess Rosebud in *The Sleeping Beauty*.

On Merseyside, the annual Southport English Rose beauty contest attracts hopeful English roses from all over the area. They turned up again last year to trip down the specially erected catwalk in the local floral hall to the strains of *Isn't She Lovely* on the organ. There was Amanda from Chester, in her oyster seashell white silk ball gown, and Sharon from Bolton, in puff-sleeved white satin and lace trimmed with tiny red rosebuds.

Jane Asher, the actress and author who has a red rose named after her (she's looking a little bit droopy but she keeps going a long time and is virtually disease free), visualizes the perfect English rose as "blonde, pale-skinned, 18 or 19 years old, demure, wearing a floaty flowery dress, drifting through the fields, blowing the down off a dandelion, blushing as a gentleman crosses the fields towards her, with a hint of the purity not being totally steadfast; there's fire beneath the ice."

She also sees the flower as, "desperately romantic and, as with the girl, I think it promises eventual fulfilment".

A juxtaposition of woman and flower is a theme which rambles its way through poetry and literature. "O, my Love's like a red red rose/That's newly sprung in June," wrote Robert Burns. Geoffrey Chaucer, in his *Legend of Cleopatra*, described the Queen as "fair as is the rose in May".

Even Hollywood succumbed. In the wartime tear-jerker based on *The Times* serial *Mrs Miniver* - which chronicled the day-to-day troubles of a fictional upper middle-class household - Greer Garson, in the title role, is invited to give her name to the most beautiful rose she has ever seen.

According to the gardening experts, English roses tend to be perfect because of the climate. "The perfect English rose is a rose grown in England," said a recent pundit on *Gardeners' Question Time*. But one of his colleagues argued that the perfect English rose has yet to be grown and, it was to be hoped, never will be, "because if they find one, they'll stop breeding new ones".

The irony is that, of course, there is no such thing as the English rose. Britain's roses are crossbred from strains imported by everyone from the Romans onwards. "I was rather pleased to find that it doesn't exist, because neither does that notion of perfection," Ms Dickinson says.

© The English Rose, Arena, BBC2 9.30pm.

Freedom's flip side

AT A dinner party last Wednesday night I found myself seated next to the American defence strategist and ambassador at large Paul Nitze. The occasion was a celebration of his book of memoirs *From Hiroshima to Glasnost* and his speech at Chatham House, in which he suggested a replacement for the old American policy of "containment". The notion of containment was developed in George F. Kennan's famous 1947 essay on foreign affairs and took as its thesis the view that "a long-term, patient but firm and vigilant containment of Russian expansive tendencies" would eventually produce constructive changes in the Soviet system.

As the dinner progressed, some sharp exchanges took place. We were eating the shrimp and gingered beef, after all, against the backdrop of the Lithuanian crisis which is a flower of our policies of containment. Or is it? I began to think about that as I listened to all sorts of thinkers explain why we should not be putting pressure on Mr Gorbachev over Lithuania. As we talked, I could not erase the image of the bespectacled Mr Landsbergis, president of Lithuania, who that day had asked: "Are the democratic nations willing to sell Lithuania to the Soviet Union once more?" I cannot be alone in feeling some shame.

As far as I can see, containment of communism has not been a forceful policy of the West for the last 40 years - even though speaker after speaker at the Nitze dinner disagreed and referred to its effectiveness as a matter of fact. In my view, the West did make one last "containment" effort during the 1961 Berlin airlift, but neither Korea, the Bay of Pigs nor Vietnam had the same conviction behind them. Indeed, America lost all notion of containment in Vietnam. It tried to pretend that it was engaged simply in a "police" action and it lost that war, I believe, because it had no moral commitment to the fight.

Containment as a moral policy was probably abandoned in the early Sixties. Right up until the 1989 revolutions in Eastern Europe, one can see that the West had little sympathy for those suffering under communism. The American conservative magazine, *National Review*, did a computer search of the media and discovered that the phrase "victims of McCarthyism" appeared more frequently in the 1980s than the phrase "victims of communism" - and, indeed, that latter phrase was often only used as one of ironic contempt.

This changed, to some extent, with the advent of Ronald Reagan and Margaret Thatcher, who brought back a sense of moral conviction to the policy of containment. But while the contribution of Reagan, Thatcher and Star Wars to the fall of communism should not be neglected, in the end communism collapsed. I think, because it was a dreadful system that could bring nothing but misery to mankind. It was the murderous philosophies of Marx and Engels and Lenin that brought Lithuania to the brink of freedom today.



Paul Nitze, American defence strategist and ambassador at large

Unlike Ambassador Nitze

Communism collapsed, I think, because it was such a dreadful system

or many of the speakers at the dinner, I do not know what the new strategic policy of the West should be, or will be. It is my guess that it should be a non-belligerent but firm conviction that the values on which western political and economic systems are based are better than any which have so far been attempted - which is not to say that a better system might not one day come along. As a policy this may sound woolly, but a firm philosophy almost automatically translates into a firm policy.

But what the West is doing at the moment is reverting, I think, to traditional Metternich policies. We have gone back to the age of the tsars and the Congress of Vienna. The great powers have divided up the world and each allows each to do as they wish in their own area. Since the advent of Tsar Mikhail Gorbachev we have taken the view that as he has been a pretty good boy, he can do pretty much what he wants: if he wishes to invade Romania and look after his oil fields in Baku, well, fine. If Lithuania is to be silenced, we

shall be gravely upset, but no more.

The flip side of this is that America and the West are free to act less morally than they might otherwise have done. Panama is one such example (for this reason - the message that such an action sent to Moscow - I worried about invading a country simply to remove a general we didn't like).

Is there anything wrong with this philosophy? I'm not sure. But if you consider that there are inside the Soviet Union a number of countries as real as Czechoslovakia or Hungary and certainly more real than East Germany, all of which want to be independent of both communism and the Soviet Union, then the Metternich approach is one that is essentially that of a robber baron - based on power and lacking morality.

What can we do about Lithuania? I don't for one minute think we should act aggressively. A trigger-happy West could force a change of tune by Mr Gorbachev or even his downfall. Still, we can give diplomatic recognition to the independence of Lithuania. The Soviet Union itself has admitted that the Baltic states were incorporated into the USSR illegally; we have never accepted their annexation. By diplomatically recognizing Lithuania, we would at least not be complicit in the force now being used against it. Our stand should be the exact opposite, in fact, of the Vatican's stand against Hitler.

No one expected the Vatican to offer military resistance to Nazism but the world did not expect it to conclude a concordat with the Third Reich. The Vatican suffered a grievous moral blow because of this entirely unnecessary action and we can surely learn from that now. To stand silent as Lithuania seeks for help is to corrupt ourselves, just as the Vatican did. It is not necessary to prove our point with weapons or economic boycotts, but nor is it necessary or conducive to peace to withhold disapproval from evil.

Meanwhile, I suppose it is always possible, as Mr Gorbachev is gambling that in five years' time Lithuania will not want to separate from the USSR - if communism has passed and a new and golden age takes root in the Soviet Union. But somehow, I don't think the blood that stains the tragic landscape of the Baltic republics will ever create soil for anything but an independent land whose children and grandchildren will not forget the millions murdered by the political party whose little emblem Mr Gorbachev still wears in his lapel.

Seeing the seeds of time

In 12 days a telescope is due to be launched from Cape Canaveral, in Florida, which may enable man to see images of light from the Creation. If the launch is successful, the Hubble space telescope will make possible the biggest single advance in cosmology since Galileo turned his lenses to the skies three centuries ago.

THE TIMES
ON SATURDAY
IN COLOUR

Also in the Review, Ray Connolly talks to Irina Ratnshinskaya the Russian dissident poet, about her childhood in the Black Sea city of Odessa, and discovers that there was something about her upbringing - "my parents always wanted me to be strong and withstand pain" - that enabled her to later withstand the fearsome tactics of the KGB.

view tomorrow Peter Stothard explains the Hubble's potential to answer some of the fundamental questions about the beginning of time.

In *The Times* Saturday Review

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Fabric of society

THE Greensleeves mail order range of clothing - just two designs, so far - may not be changing the face of traditional women's clothing manufacture, but it could point the way ahead for the fashion industry. Sheila Scholtes' romantic styles are made of 100 per cent cotton, using non-toxic dyes - and both styles are also available in their natural, un-bleached and un-dyed state. For a catalogue - printed on recycled card - and fabric swatches, write to Greensleeves, 5 High Street, Windsor SL4 1LD (0753-850124).

Grime green

If spring cleaning is on your mind, check out The Little Green Shop's cruelty-free range for blitzing household dirt. In addition to standard cleaning products such as washing-up liquid, disinfectant and furniture polish, the selection features all-natural, non-caustic, non-toxic weapons for the fight against grime: carpet cleaner, glass polish, oven cleaner, kettle de-scaler and barbecue cleaner, priced from £1.46 to £2.99. They can be found in independent health food stores, branches of Savory & Moore and Lifecycle. A mail order list is available from The Little Green Shop, 8 St George's Place, Brighton, BN1 4GB.

Sweet idea

Long-derided by dentists, the lollipop may do more than merely harm children's teeth, it seems - unless you're prepared to fly in supplies from the United States, where Glenn Foods, a New York-based natural sweet maker, has developed the first dioxin-free lollipop stick, which doesn't contain the potentially carcinogenic by-product of the bleaching process. Appropriately, the stick comes attached to an all-natural, malt-syrup sweetened lolly.

Joint venture

Can commerce and ecology mix? In any endeavour to create a sustainable future for the planet, business will play a crucial role. In "Business: The Leading Edge in the 1990s", a conference organized for next week (April 3-6) by the Dartington Hall Trust, an impressive list of eco-luminaries will address the commercial and ecological challenges of the upcoming decade. Speakers will include Jonathan Porritt, Anita Roddick, John Elkington - the author of the *Green Consumer Guide* - and Henry Cato, the US Ambassador. For further details of the residential conference - which costs £500 (including full board) - contact Brenda Blewitt at the Dartington Centre in Totnes, Devon (0803 862271).

Seat yourself

Most hardwood lavatory seats are now deemed ecologically unsound, and countries like Thailand have clamped down on the export of endangered woods such as teak and mahogany. An alternative is hevea - wood from redundant rubber trees, taken only from plantations which are being reforested. The seats are now available at branches of Debenhams in Oxford Street, Guildford, Gloucester, Southampton and Bristol, price £69.

Josephine Fairley

Louis Outhier

is on

the menu at

Ninety Park Lane

for

one week only.

Louis Outhier, the world renowned masterchef is at Ninety Park Lane from Monday 2nd April, for one week only. If you would like to savour the creations of this culinary genius, please telephone 01-409-1290 to make a reservation, as advanced booking is recommended. A Trusthouse Forte Exclusive Hotel.

GROSVENOR HOUSE
LONDON

Redland pegs hopes on Germany

FEW top British companies stand to benefit as greatly from the changes in Eastern Europe as Redland.

As West Germany's largest manufacturer of roof tiles, Redland expects to be a leading beneficiary of the DM8 billion (£2.85 billion) worth of re-housing assistance which the federal government is bracing itself to spend in each of the next three years.

That said, 1989 was not a particularly buoyant year for Redland as the downturn in housebuilding led to a 16 per cent fall in the volume of brick sales in Britain.

Overall, profits growth slowed from 18 per cent to 10 per cent between the first and second six months and more than half the £29 million rise in the pre-tax total to £250 million was due to currency movements, a pensions holiday, and the gain on the repurchase of the bulk of a Eurosterling bond issued at the outset of the year.

With no end to high interest rates in sight, trading stands to deteriorate further this year in Britain, which still accounts for 40 per cent of Redland's profits. Redland points out that half this comes from its aggregates business, which is protected by the Government's roads programme.

Few analysts expect growth of more than a couple of per cent to profits of £255 million and earnings per share of 62½p in 1990. At 563p, up 40p since their inclusion in The

Times' *Perestroika Portfolio* in November, that would leave the shares on a prospective p/e ratio of 9. But whatever Redland's problems, it is far better placed than most others in the sector and perceptions about the industry's prospects may begin to change as the next election approaches.

Guardian Royal

IF ONLY everything in the City was as predictable as Guardian Royal Exchange.

When Mr Peter Dugdale, the outgoing chief executive, announced the year's dividend of 11.5p, up 15 per cent, no one rushed for the phones, as 19 of the 21 broker's analysts at the meeting had already forecast it.

The pre-tax profits of £148 million, down 38 per cent, were similarly expected. A poor underwriting result all round was exacerbated by 10 commercial property fire claims in the second half worth £24 million.

The other main damage came from the Irish subsidiary, where a large number of motor claims and generous judicial awards pushed it to a pre-tax loss of £46.2 million, compared with a £1 million profit in 1988.

Overall, underwriting losses spiralled to £170 million, from £16.4 million in 1988, although this was in part com-



Better placed than most: Gerald Corbett, the financial director of Redland

pensated by a 29 per cent gain in investment income to £291 million.

Guardian Royal Exchange was noticeably successful in attracting new business during the year, with non-life pre-

mium income growing by 27 per cent to £2 billion.

Poor though the figures looked, the company was quick to point out it had the best return on premium income of its competitors which

have reported so far, and its underwriting loss was the lowest. The confidence extended to the dividend increase, which left the group with a £1.3 million bottom line deficit. Guardian Royal Exchange also looks as if it was strongly reinsured against this winter's storms, and will only have to pay out one-third of the £100 million its policyholders have claimed. As long as the year produces no more nasty surprises, it should be capable of making £160 million.

Profits in composite insurance come and go, while smart investors keep their eye on dividend growth.

On a prospective payout of 12.75p, Guardian Royal Exchange has a yield of 7.5 per cent, second only in the sector to Royal Insurance. A reliable hold.

Burmah Oil

Burmah Oil advertises only a 6 per cent rise in net earnings for its 1989 year, which is hardly the rate of growth to set the market on fire. However, if the £8.4 million of property profits that flattered the 1988 results are stripped out, Burmah can boast an 18 per cent jump.

The market yesterday chose to look at the fundamental advance, and marked the shares 9p higher at 599p.

Castrol continues to oil Burmah's wheels of fortune,

and the 1989 net outcome of £95.5 million against £87.2 million (at the pre-tax level, a result of £155 million against £146.2 million) generally pleased.

The dividend rises by 13 per cent with a final of 13.5p (12p), payable on July 12 and making 21.5p (19p).

The balance sheet has benefited from a property revaluation that lifts shareholders' funds by £175 million to £585.9 million, gearing ended the year at 25 per cent, and interest cover eased from 12 to nine times.

Burmah continues to look over the shoulder of Premier Consolidated Oilfields, in which it has a 29.8 per cent interest, and says it could well sell. Meanwhile, SHV, of The Netherlands, continues to look over the shoulder of Burmah, in which it has an intriguing 9.14 per cent. SHV whispers in Burmah's ear that it is a stable and supportive shareholder, and indicates that there is little to fear.

Burmah could find speciality chemicals operations — which managed a trading profit rise from £15.7 million to £17.1 million — a more difficult market in 1990. However, Castrol continues to gain market share in its various fields, and, overall, further profits growth should be assured. A net income in 1990 of £102 million looks possible, to put the shares, at 599p, up 9p, on a rating of 10.7. Hold.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

TV-am shares rise on advertising boost

SHARES in TV-am rose 13p to 183p after the ITV breakfast television contractor boasted record advertising revenue for the fifth year running, up 24 per cent to £81 million. Pre-tax profits for the year to end-January jumped by 19 per cent to £24 million, while earnings per share increased by 18 per cent to 23.1p. The dividend for the year was up 54 per cent to 10p.

Mr Ian Irvine, the chairman, said he was certain a breakfast franchise would be included in the Broadcasting Bill, and with 75 per cent of the market, he was confident TV-am would win the franchise. TV-am confirmed it would take a small stake in Mr Kerry Packer's Television Corporation of America, worth Aus\$10 million (£4.6 million) if a planned bid for Channel 9, owned by Bond Media, went ahead. Mr Bruce Gyngell, TV-am's Australian managing director, has ruled out a move back to Channel 9.

Relyon profit falls to £3.8m

PRE-TAX profits at Relyon, the mattress, furniture and security equipment maker, fell last year to £3.8 million, from £4.4 million. Earnings per share fell from 20.88p to 15.19p. The dividend remains 4.15p, making a total of 6.25p, unchanged. The directors propose a three-for-one scrip issue to existing shareholders.

Broadcast in £2m deal

BROADCAST Communications is paying up to £2 million for Mobart Enterprises, which trades as The Film Stock Centre, distributing film stock for Kodak, Fuji and Agfa. Broadcast, controlled by the Guardian and Manchester Evening News group, reports a 40 per cent increase in first-half pre-tax profits to £270,000.

£8.8m Forfeiting loss

Shares of London Forfeiting, the specialist international trade finance house, rose strongly yesterday despite news of an £8.8 million loss for last year compared with profits of £20 million in the previous trading period. The rise, of 11p to 80p, was sparked by much lower second-half losses and the board's decision to hold the dividend at the previous year's level of 7.25p a share, after a final payment of 4.625p.

The main activity, forfeiting (discounting trade debts and by trading them) has been hit by rising interest rates and by political uncertainty in Eastern Europe. LF cut its exposure to forfeiting from £387 million of assets at end-1988 to £191 million by the end of last year and moved into cash, boosting liquid assets from £75 million to £320 million.

Ferrari offer for Pericom

THE Ferrari Holdings computer maintenance group has made a £4 million recommended offer for Pericom. The terms are 53 convertible preference for every 100 Pericom shares, with a 53p-a-share cash alternative. Ferrari's pre-tax profits were £1.4 million in the 15 months to end-1989.

Citic pays for C&W stake

CABLE and Wireless has completed the sale of a 20 per cent stake in Hongkong Telecommunications to Citic International Trust and Investment Corp Holdings with receipt of about HK\$10 billion (£784 million). C&W will shortly buy 3.4 per cent of HK Telecom from the Hong Kong government.

Aeroflot to buy in US

AEROFLOT, the Soviet Union airline, is to buy American-built General Electric engines worth more than \$150 million to power its 10 European Airbus A310s. The General Electric CF6-80C2 will be the first Western manufactured aircraft engine in Aeroflot's fleet of more than 3,000 aircraft.

Delivery of five A310s is scheduled to begin in late 1991 and Aeroflot then plans to use them to improve the standard of its service on international routes between Western Europe and South-east Asia via Moscow.

'We'll cover you' Sir Jack assured Guinness backer

By A Correspondent

AN AUSTRIAN bank was recruited by Sir Jack Lyons, the millionaire financier, to invest in Guinness during its bid for Distillers promising that it could not lose, South-west Crown Court heard.

The bank's London representative was told by Sir Jack "we will cover you" at a lunch where the investment was first discussed.

Dr Horst Tiefenthaler of the Zentralparkasse und Kommerzbank Wien told the court he understood Sir Jack meant "that we would not incur a loss."

Dr Tiefenthaler said he first met Sir Jack socially. Later, they discussed the Austrian nationalised industries and the possibility of Bain and Co. the management consultants to whom Sir Jack was linked, becoming involved.

Despite knowing of the Guinness bid for Distillers, he did not discuss the takeover until a lunch three days before it was made unconditional, at which he was asked whether ZKB would be interested in buying Guinness shares.

Mr John Chadwick, QC, prosecuting, asked: "Was anything said in connection with the proposal about the possibility of shares going down?"

The banker replied: "Yes, it was mentioned. Very casually. Sir Jack said that in any event we would not lose on the transaction. It's very difficult, reading the newspapers now the word 'indemnity' is in everyone's mouth. He did not say that word, he said casually 'we will cover you.'"

"I certainly understood we would not lose."

A After gaining approval from his board in Vienna, the bank purchased about £2 million of stock, about 550,000 shares, through Mr Anthony

Parnes, the stockbroker. It is alleged ZKB later received an indemnity payment of £254,000.

The prosecution alleges an illegal share support operation was mounted to ensure victory for the £2.7 billion bid over rivals Argyl.

Mr Ernest Saunders, aged 54, the former Guinness chairman; Mr Gerald Ronson, aged 50, Heron Corporation chairman; Mr Parnes, aged 44; and Sir Jack, aged 74, variously deny 24 counts on the indictment including theft, false accounting, and breaches of the Companies Act.

Half a dozen Distillers shareholders who chose to accept the Guinness offer were also asked in turn whether they knew of secret indemnities and success fees, they would still have joined the Guinness cause, rather than accept the rival Argyl bid.

Four of the six said they would not have sided with Guinness had they known, one said he would have reconsidered, and the final investor said it would not have affected his choice.

Mr Christopher Dawson, investment manager for the Medical Sickness Annuity and Life Assurance Company which held 200,000 Distillers shares, was asked if he had known of the arrangements "would you have acted as you did?" Mr Dawson, who chose Guinness for its higher offer, replied: "Certainly not."

Mr Thomas Buchanan, a manufacturer's agent, admitted that had he known of the secret arrangement, he would not have chosen Guinness to assist his 23,000 shares. Asked why, he said every shareholder should get the same offer.

The trial continues today.

Magnet deal expected

A RENEGOTIATED version of the contentious property deal involving Magnet, the kitchen retailer, and Bourne End Properties is expected to be announced today.

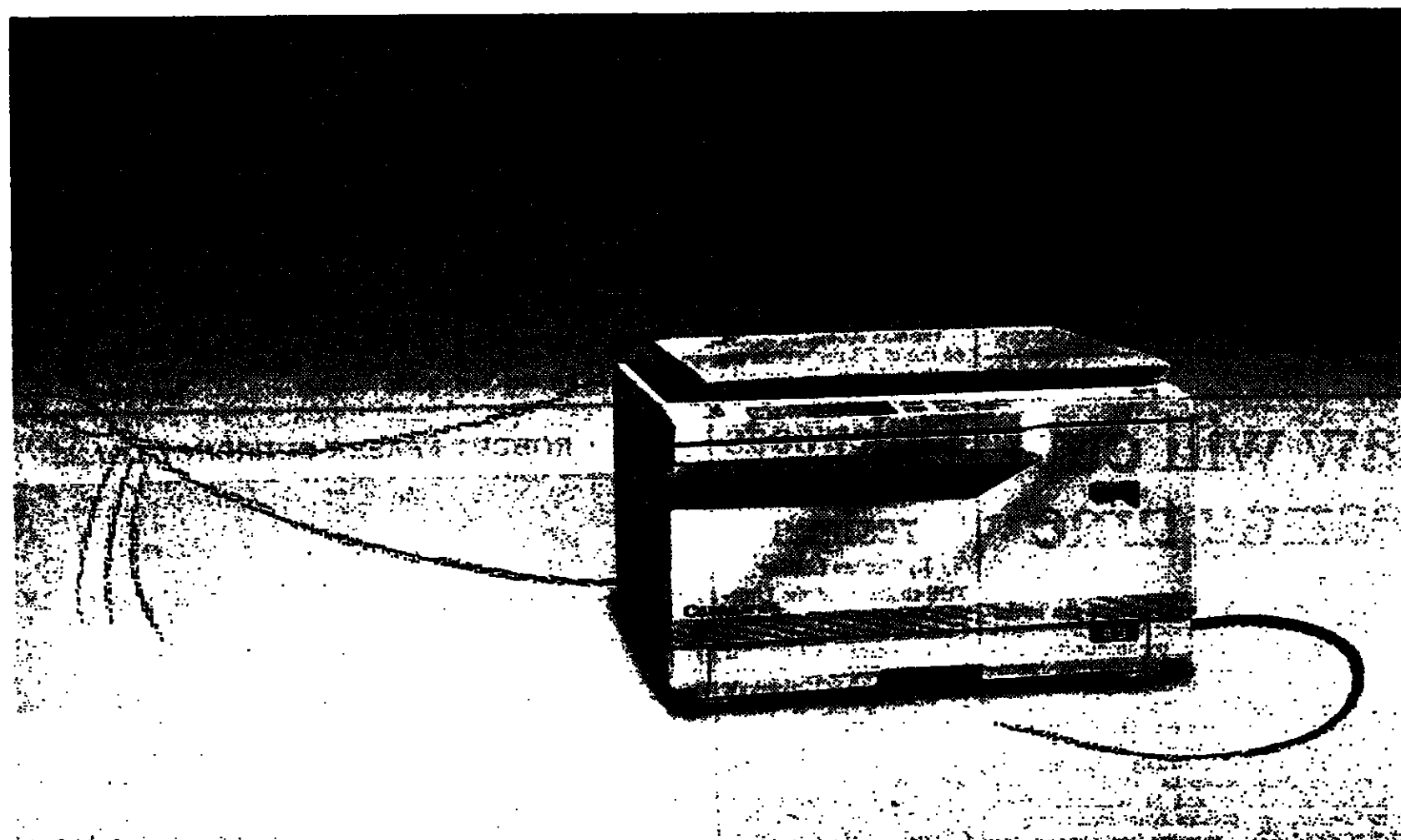
A writ issued by Magnet in an attempt to force Bourne End to complete on the deal has been withdrawn.

The original £33 million

deal has now been renegotiated into two parts.

Bourne End will now complete on a £16.5 million deal to buy 24 of Magnet's properties. According to Magnet's refinancing document, the company intends to lease back the properties at a rent of £2 million a year, giving Bourne End a yield of 12 per cent.

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IF ANYONE CAN, CANON CAN.

Burton shelves Storehouse bid plans as profits dip to £116m

By Gillian Bowditch

BURTON has run the rule over Storehouse, the Habitat, Mothercare and British Home Stores group, but has decided against launching a bid after institutional shareholders disapproved of the idea.

Burton refused to comment on specific acquisition plans, but Mr Eddie Gallagher, corporate affairs and investor relations director, said: "We have professionals looking at all sorts of things all the time. We keep all our options open."

Richards, the Storehouse

women's wear chain, is for sale at £100 million.

Sir Ralph Halpern, chairman of Burton, described the past six months as "the most difficult trading period in recent history."

The group made pre-tax profits of £116.3 million, down from £117.5 million, in the six months to March, on sales of £986 million, up 10 per cent.

The shares rose 1p to 162p on the news.

Earnings per share were static at 14p and the interim

dividend increases 7 per cent from 2.8p to 3p.

Sales from the retail division, including Debenhams, Dorothy Perkins, Top Shop and Burton Retail, rose 8.4 per cent to £924 million. Like-for-like sales were up 4 per cent and the trading profit rose by 3.5 per cent to £108 million.

Debenhams improved profits and sales and Top Shop, Champion Sport and Principles for Women produced better results than last year. At Dorothy Perkins, Top Man, Principles for Men and Evans,

profits were static and Burton Retail's results were down.

Profits from financial services were static at £13.4 million and Mr Gallagher said people were paying off their credit card debts more quickly. Property profits fell from £12 million to £10.4 million.

Analysts are concerned about the weakness in the retail property market and Burton now intends to see its property developments through to completion rather than selling them, which will mean carrying costs of £13 million a year.

Mr Gallagher emphasized that the next six months would continue to be tough.

Analysts are looking for pre-tax profits for the full year of £200 million to £205 million, a fall of £20 million on last time.

This means Sir Ralph looks set to take another cut in his £899,000 salary. Under the profit-related scheme, if earnings per share fall there can be no current-year bonus or discretionary bonus although there may still be a deferred bonus from four years ago.

'Cold call' proposal for Peps

FINANCIAL salesmen will be able to "cold call" customers and sell investment trust savings schemes and personal equity plans investing in shares if proposals published by the Securities and Investments Board today go ahead.

The proposed changes would bring investment trust schemes and share Peps into line with unit trust products.

Directors' pay
Annual basic pay rises for directors in the six months to February show a modest decline on the previous six, according to a survey from Charterhouse, the merchant bank. The median rise for directors is 12.9 per cent, down from 13.6 per cent.

EHP setback

The troubled European Home Products yesterday unveiled a collapse in earnings per share from 29.2p to 12.1p. Pre-tax profits fell from £24.3 million to £16 million. A 3.5p final dividend leaves the total at 6p.

Wilkes leaps

Pre-tax profits at James Wilkes surged by 90 per cent to £2.5 million in 1989. The final dividend rises to 4.75p (4.25p), making 9p, up 16 per cent.

Maxwell rises

Shares in Maxwell Communications Corporation jumped 6p to 187p after Mr Robert Maxwell, chairman, told shareholders to expect a final dividend for the year to March of not less than 8p, making at least 14.5p, against 14.4p.

Clarkson up

Active shipping markets helped Clarkson (Horse), the shipping group, to a 37.7 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to £8.04 million for 1989. The final dividend rises to 5p, making 7.5p for the year, up 20 per cent.

Aran loss

Aran Energy, the Irish oil group, made a pre-tax loss of £138,000 for 1989 against a £151,000 profit previously.

Tin payout

The Bank of England will today start paying £182 million to creditors to the International Tin Council, whose failure in 1985 triggered a world tin crisis. The funds have been collected from governments behind the ITC.

Rowland's salary rises 30% to £1.3m

TED BATH



Mr Tiny Rowland, Lorrho chief executive, pauses for reflection during the annual meeting at Grosvenor House yesterday. His salary rises from £1 million to £1.3 million. The group announced a 1-for-10 share bonus and confirmed it will seek damages in the House of Lords for costs incurred pursuing the Fayed brothers during the House of Fraser affair.

Profits at United hit by costs and falling circulations

By Jeremy Andrews

PROFITS from United Newspapers' national titles, the *Daily Express*, the *Sunday Express* and the *Daily Star*, fell by almost a quarter to £24 million last year due to falling circulations and higher costs.

This setback, together with a doubled interest charge of £15.8 million, virtually wiped out growth from advertising periodicals and magazines, leaving the pre-tax total just 3 per cent up at £111 million.

The current year has started flat, prompting Lord Stevens, United's chairman, to give a warning: "A number of our publications and businesses will not be able to escape the consequences of reduced advertising expenditure."

United's regional papers did better, with trading profits £6.5 million up at £26.8 million, partly because advertising revenues in the North of England held up better than in the South-east. However, this division was the main beneficiary of the £4.9 million pension credit.

Profits from the US, where United has been acquiring new titles, rose by £11 million

to £33.7 million. This increase accounted for the bulk of the growth from advertising periodicals, such as *Exchange & Mart* and *Forrest*, and from magazines, whose profits in total went up from £50.2 million to £64.1 million.

The interest charge rose because of the high cost of relocating its national papers - £140 million capital costs and £75 million redundancy payments - in the past three years. United only received the final £45 million tranche of the £80 million proceeds from the sale of Express Newspapers' Fleet Street site after the year-end.

With a lower tax charge, earnings per share edged 1/2p ahead to 38p. The final dividend rises by 0.5p to 13.5p, making 21p, up 2 per cent.

The restructuring of Reuters' share capital gave United an extraordinary gain of £36.4 million. Year-end borrowings were £320 million, or 120 per cent of shareholders' funds. Eitel Sports Services has been sold to the Press Association for £5.1 million. The shares fell 1p to 345p.

GRE falls by 38% to £148m

By Neil Bennett

GUARDIAN Royal Exchange is expecting to pay out almost £120 million on 85,000 claims from damage caused by the storms in January and February. The storms have also doubled the cost of the company's reinsurance.

It estimates claims from January's storm will total £90 million, while damage from February will cost another £25 million. However, all but £30 million of it will be covered by reinsurance.

Claims from the flooding in Wales and the West Country may cost another £5 million. GRE says it has been forced to pay £25 million for reinsurance cover this year, up from £12.5 million in 1989.

GRE made pre-tax profits of £148 million, down 38 per cent due to large underwriting losses in Britain and Ireland.

In Britain, GRE made an underwriting loss of £25.8 million, compared with a profit of £27.7 million. Ireland made a pre-tax loss of £46.2 million, after a £1 million profit in 1988. Life insurance profits slipped 9 per cent to £27.3 million due to start-up costs in Ireland and France.

Tempos, page 22

ASC clampdown on creative financing

By Alastair Fairley

THE Accounting Standards Committee is to clamp down on companies who use creative financing techniques to tidy up their balance sheets.

The ASC is to re-issue an exposure draft which, if adopted as a full standard, will require companies to account more accurately for assets and liabilities under their control but not written into their balance sheets.

In response to criticism of its earlier draft - released two years ago - the ASC has also taken the unusual step of issuing detailed guidance on accounting for the five key forms of off-balance sheet finance: mortgage securitization, factoring, consignment of stock, sale and re-purchase agreements, and loan transfers.

Mr Michael Renshall, ASC chairman, denied the committee's moves are designed to wipe out the multi-billion pound industry created by merchant banks and factoring companies. "The so-called off-balance sheet industry continues to serve a useful purpose," he said.

Under attack, however, is the use by companies of techniques designed purely to create a good effect on a company's balance sheet, most commonly by transferring liabilities to associated companies in which they have a substantial interest.

Companies which previously have come under fire include Terence Conran's Storehouse Group which entered into a deal with Morgan Grenfell designed to remove Richard Shops from the Storehouse balance sheet. Under the deal, Morgan Grenfell took 48 per cent of Richard Shops' shares, leaving Store-

house a further 48 per cent. Since neither, technically, owned the company it failed to appear in the net assets or liabilities of either's accounts, even though Storehouse retained an option to buy back the remaining shares.

Mr Renshall said in future companies should report "the substance and not just the form" of off-balance sheet transactions. The transactions should be analysed to determine whether their true impact increased or decreased a company's net assets, and then reported on accordingly.

published could look a bit like insider trading, particularly if another national licence is granted.

BT had no choice but to back away at is current line-up after spending hundreds of millions of pounds on its customer services computer system. Commitment to it meant jobs had to go - particularly in the overmanaged districts.

One thing is certain - and the market agrees - Iain Vallance, BT's quietly-spoken Scottish chairman, is right when he says a global network is the only way to compete. He says Britain is high years ahead of its European competitors when it comes to creating an international network, able to capture multinational business.

David Brewerton

Hooke left of the hook

AMERICAN stockbroker Bob Hooke, employed until yesterday as head of sales and trading in the London office of Banque Paribas, has been released by the bank just in time to begin his rigorous training schedule for the BOC round-the-world single-handed yacht race which begins in nine months. Hooke, who has already crossed the Atlantic single-handed, had been with Paribas for two years. He was one of five people who left the bank yesterday, among them former Quilter Goodison partner Keith Tondeur. Paribas bought Quilter, where Sir Nicholas Goodison, a former Stock Exchange chairman, was once the senior partner, in 1986, and later sold its private client business, the right to the Quilter name and 14 of the firm's partners to Commercial Union. The job losses were the result of the merger of its UK and European sales desks, to form one pan-European desk, and also its UK and European trading desks, to form a separate pan-European trading desk. "We have done this to emphasize the European nature of our business," Chris Cartwright, head of equities, tells me. "We are approaching Europe as one market. The UK, within that, is the most important market and in terms of client base and its size, and we will regard it as such. Our research department is already organized on a pan-European basis and now it will be augmented by sales

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Fleming strikes again

ROBERT Fleming, the securities house, which poached Louise Mayo, the head of James Capel's convertibles team - ranked number one by Exel - two weeks ago, as well as two of her colleagues, Alan Chilvers and Jo Mills, has struck again. Yesterday, junior traders Terri Askham and Sarah Gray, both from Capel's convertibles desk, resigned

and trading. He was, he added, still "actively looking for people with the right qualities to implement our strategy."

Struck down

CAPITAL and Regional Properties, the USM-quoted commercial property investment company, may have unveiled impressive results, with 22 per cent net asset growth, but chairman Martin Barber, aged 43, nevertheless found the accounts extremely painful reading. For, as he was looking through them on Monday evening, he was struck down with appendicitis. "The accounts themselves weren't at all painful, so I didn't really have anything to grumble about," he said.

Lynch goes

PETER Lynch, manager of the Fidelity Magellan Fund, the largest and most successful mutual fund in the United States, has retired at the

and left the firm - also to join Fleming. But reports that it has left Capel's devoid of convertibles traders are untrue. "We still have a department of nine people, which is more than most firms, and we will continue to be major players in this field," a spokeswoman tells me. "None of our sales people have left - these people were all traders."

relatively tender age of 46. Lynch said his father had died at 46 and "this is very much on my mind. Lynch, who wrote the bestseller *One Up on Wall Street* last year, has managed the Fidelity Magellan Fund throughout the 1980s.



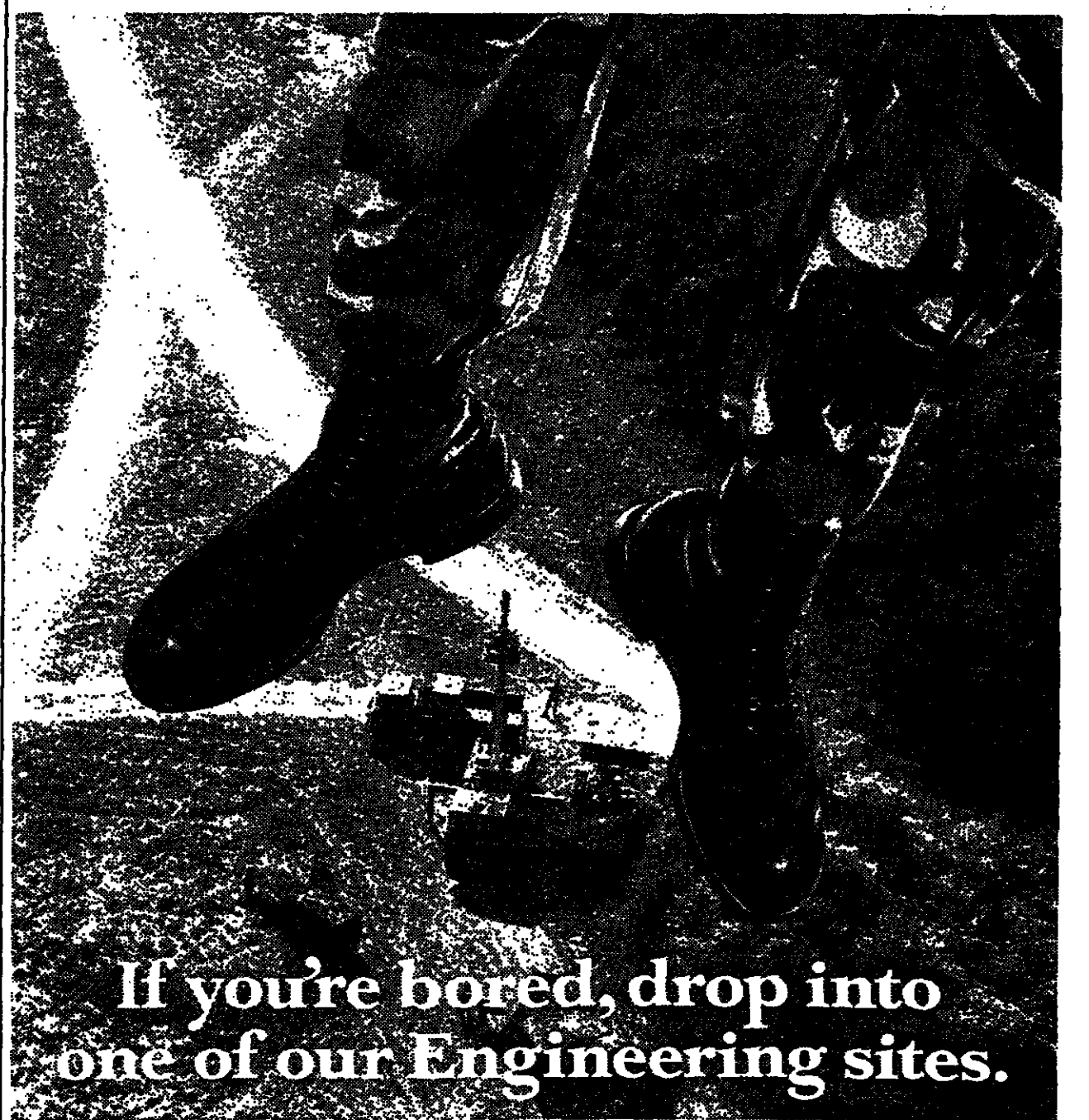
"Compensation will, apparently, run into telephone numbers."

Ridley resigns

TRANSPORTATION expert extraordinary, Dr Tony Ridley, resigned as the managing director of Eurotunnel yesterday, and as a director of its subsidiary companies, barely 24 hours after the company's annual meeting. Ridley, aged 56, and a former chairman and managing director of London Underground, first made a name for himself in the early 1970s, when he was director general of Tyne and Wear Passenger Transport Executive, and paved the way for the city's metro system. From there he moved to Hong Kong, to mastermind its mass transit railway. He became a non-executive director of Eurotunnel in 1987 - moving into the managing director's chair a year ago. His departure had been widely anticipated. "It follows the reorganization we announced in February," a spokesman says. But Eurotunnel is somewhat coy about revealing details of Ridley's contract or compensation package. "We are not talking about compensation," I was told. "We have nothing to say - it's between him and Eurotunnel." And his shareholders, perhaps.

● A BOSS by any other name... Grants of St James's, that "leading wine and spirits merchant", has been advertising for a sales executive for its York office. The applicant, who must be "resourceful, flexible and imaginative," is instructed to apply to the local sales manager, one Raymond Plonka.

Carol Leonard



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Miller will take helm at Wang

AFTER the death last week of Mr An Wang, founder of Wang Laboratories, Mr Richard Miller, its president, is being appointed chairman and chief executive.

The board's unanimous decision reflects the confidence which the Wang family and the other board members have in Richard Miller, the company said.

Mr Miller, aged 48, joined Wang, based in the US, last August. The Wang family plans to retain its controlling interest and Mr Wang's widow, Mrs Lorraine Wang, will be honorary chairwoman.

Dolphin leaps

Pre-tax profits at Dolphin Packaging, now chaired by Mr Moger Woolley, the former chief executive of DRG, jumped 36 per cent to £2.48 million, on sales 43 per cent higher at £26.7 million in the 12 months to December. Earnings are 8.6p, up 26 per cent, and the final dividend is 2.5p (2p) making 3.7p total, up 16 per cent.

C&R jumps

Net assets at Capital and Regional Properties rose 22 per cent to £24.4 million in 1989, and NAV improved to 202p (165p) a share. Pre-tax profits were £3.9 million (£1.09 million) and a final dividend of 0.6p makes 0.9p total, up 50 per cent, on earnings of 29.2p (8.7p).

Druck up 1%

Pre-tax profits at Druck Holdings, maker of microchip-based pressure sensors, rose 1 per cent to £1.60 million in the six months to December, despite sales up 10 per cent to £8.5 million. Earnings fell 0.6p to 14.6p, but the interim dividend rises 0.1p to 2.6p.

NMW profit

NMW Computers, the security systems supplier, edged back into the black with pre-tax profits of £87,000 (£1.3 million loss). Turnover for the year fell to £9.1 million (£10.3 million). The final dividend stays at 0.25p on earnings per share of 0.2p (4.6p loss).

Dauphin rises

Dauphin, the office chair maker, lifted 1989 pre-tax profits 12 per cent to £4.01 million. Earnings rise 9 per cent to 12p, and a final dividend of 3.3p (2.7p) makes 4.8p total, up a fifth.

Polly Peck tops forecasts with 44% jump

By Melinda Wittstock

SHARES in Polly Peck International dropped 6p to 389p, despite the ease with which the fresh produce, consumer electronics and leisure group topped City forecasts. Pre-tax profits jumped 43.8 per cent to £161.4 million in the 1989 year.

Analysts, who had expected pre-tax profits of between £145 million and £155 million and earnings per share of 45p or more, were initially displeased with Polly Peck's reported earnings per share of 43.2p—before they realized earnings would have reached 48p or 49p if not for a

technical adjustment to reflect the bonus element in last September's £283 million rights issue.

Earnings per share rose by 16.4 per cent, against City forecasts of 10 per cent growth. "Most analysts made their forecasts before the rights issue, and most did not account for the fact that the shares climbed 70p to 368p on news of the rights issue at 245p," said Mr Peter Jones of Shearson Lehman.

He said the shares had fallen because of the confusion over earnings growth and Polly Peck's failure to announce the sale for more than \$200 million of the nine

ships acquired with Del Monte Fresh Fruit last September. It is understood Polly Peck will announce the disposal soon.

Turnover increased 52.7 per cent to £1.16 billion for the year, while net assets jumped by 114 per cent to £827 million. A higher-than-forecast final dividend of 8p will be paid, making 13p for the year, up 36.8 per cent on last year's 9.5p.

Mr Asil Nadir, the chairman, said the results were "an appropriate conclusion to a decade in which we achieved an unbroken record of profitable growth."

He said the food division had

handled more produce of a greater variety and from more sources than before. Its pre-tax profits rose from £88.1 million to £128.2 million.

Del Monte made a three-week contribution to profits of £2 million net, and is expected to add more than £30 million this year.

The electronics division, which continued to diversify its production capacity in the Far East and Europe, increased pre-tax profits by 63 per cent to £31.4 million. Polly Peck said it still had "a lot more to accomplish" with Sansui Electric Company, the Japanese manufacturer of audio products in which it

bought a controlling stake last October for £68.7 million.

However, the electronics results were lower than some analysts expected, leading to re-evaluations of 1990 results. BZW cut its pre-tax estimate from £236 million to £227.5 million and Hoare Govett by £5 million to £225 million.

"That's still a rise of over 40 per cent, well above the market average. It's a reflection of how highly the company is regarded in the City that even results like these cannot satisfy everyone," said one analyst.

The company also announced a one for 10 scrip issue.



Wembley slips to £11.1m



Balancing assets and earnings: Brian Wolfson, chairman of Wembley, now concentrating on core activities

By Our City Staff

SMALLER proceeds from the sales of property held back pre-tax profits of Wembley, the sports, entertainment and leisure group, last year.

But before taking account of exceptional items like property sales, the group showed a 19 per cent rise in profits to £8.5 million compared with £7.1 million in 1988. Exceptional items of £2.7 million were £1.4 million less than in the previous trading period, giving pre-tax income of £11.16 million against £11.24 in 1988.

Mr Brian Wolfson, the

chairman, said that the investment programme last year strengthened the group in all areas. "We have also been active on the acquisitions front in order to broaden our interests both in the UK and the US while keeping firmly within the boundaries of leisure and leisure services," he said.

During the year Wembley bought Juliana's Holdings, the nightclub group, Guild Entertainment, which distributes films, and Meridian Holdings.

Profits from these companies were included from

their dates of acquisition. "We now have a better balance between an asset-rich portfolio with low returns and an earnings vehicle with low asset backing. Our strategy continues to be the development of our core activities as the raising of their profitability," said Mr Wolfson.

Apart from owning the Wembley Stadium complex, the group is the largest greyhound racing operator in Britain and the US and has interests in catering and hospitality, film distribution, plus US activities taking in com-

puterized ticketing systems and betting equipment.

Fully-diluted earnings per share were 9.3p against 9p. The board is paying a final dividend of 1.3p per share making a total of 2p for the year, a rise of 33 per cent.

Mr Wolfson said all areas of activity were performing in line with expectations.

"Bookings and orders for 1990 are well in advance of this time last year and the acquisitions made during 1989 are all expected to be earnings-enhancing," he said. The shares shed 7p to 92.5p.

Telfos brings Hungarian buy to profits

From Colla Narkovics, Budapest

TELFOS Holdings, the engineering and investment group, has brought its pioneering Hungarian acquisition, Ganz, the state-owned railway engineering company, into profit, and is looking to expand further in Eastern Europe.

The company is convinced a new and dynamic era is dawning for railway systems throughout the world, especially in Britain. It is studying a deal with a Czechoslovakian railway engineering concern, as well as the expansion of its Hungarian involvement to traction plant production.

City forecasts point to group results, due next month, showing a pre-tax profit of more than £6 million for last year, after its profits soared by 200 per cent the previous year to £5.16 million. Earnings per share rose by 142 per cent to 198p to 22.5p.

The workforce and other costs have been severely pared at Ganz, now called Ganz-Hungar, after Hunslet, the Telfos subsidiary in Leeds, West Yorkshire, which is a specialist railway engine manufacturer. The company expects Budapest to generate steadily increasing profits, reaching 10 per cent of turnover by next year.

When Mr Jo Malins, the chief executive of Telfos, signed the Hungarian deal last August, Ganz was seen by Communist-controlled Hungary as a financial burden. Telfos bought 51 per cent of

the locomotive, railcar and tramcar manufacturer for £12 million, about £10 million of which was in the form of technology and management skill transfer.

Telfos, which is still the only British firm to have concluded a large deal with the Hungarians under their incentive-filled joint venture programme, has put its own management team in Budapest to reorganize the company.

Mr Malins, speaking in Hungary this week, expressed surprise that more British companies had not followed Telfos into joint ventures in Hungary, as the country had a solid industrial tradition, especially in engineering.

His own brief experience of operating in Hungary could soon lead to another six deals involving British companies.

In December, Telfos set up a joint venture with Virgin Group and Mr Peter Mowland, a private businessman, to manufacture floppy discs and audio tapes, using production facilities within Hungary.

Mr Malins, whose enthusiasm for engineering led to his original separation from Chillingham Corporation, sees Hungary providing a low-cost production base with a valuable home market for Ganz Hunslet products.

From Budapest, the company could supply the demand anticipated as British Rail is geared up for privatization and the London Underground modernizes.

'Lower tax on gold coin sales'

A CALL for the Government "to do justice" to the British gold coin and lower, if not abolish, VAT on gold coins was made by Mr Robert Guy of NIM Rothschild & Sons, the bullion dealer, at the London Bullion Market Association banquet.

"It is a fine coin and its potential sales would be greatly enhanced if the tax regime was more favourable," Mr Guy said before an audience including Mr Peter Lilley, Financial Secretary to the Treasury.

B-G advances

Bridport-Gundry, the specialist netting, thread and webbing manufacturer, lifted pre-tax profits from £306,000 to £510,000 in the six months to end-January. Turnover fell to £16.2 million (£17.4 million) after disposals, although core turnover improved 27 per cent. Earnings per share rose from 1.95p to 3.22p, and the interim dividend is maintained held at 1.9p.

Airport prices

The European Commission has unveiled new regulations, subject to national approval, to prevent airports from charging excessive and arbitrary prices to airlines and to stamp out favouritism towards national carriers. The rules call on airlines to publish transparent, non-discriminatory pricing scales.

Brooks grows

Brooks Service, the workwear and laundry group, improved profits to £2.3 million (£2.1 million) during 1989. Turnover rose 22 per cent to £22 million. A final dividend of 3.9p makes 5.75p (5p) total on earnings of 13.4p (12.7p).

Fitch ahead

Fitch-RS, the design consultancy, edged ahead with pre-tax profits of £3.71 million (£3.62 million) on sales up 35 per cent to £25.8 million. Earnings per share fell to 28.2p (32.3p) and the dividend for the year is static at 9.5p.

G&D slips

Pre-tax profits at Gibbs and Dandy, the builders merchant, fell from £913,000 to £172,000 last year on static sales of about £24 million. Earnings fell to 2.6p (7.8p) and the dividend is 2.75p (2.76p).

"Net assets rise 21.5% in 1989 to 464p per share"

REPORTS SIR NIGEL MOBBS, THE CHAIRMAN

- Another year of significant growth in earnings, dividends and net assets per share.
- Principal business objectives achieved — to strengthen the underlying quality of our portfolio by active estate management and to acquire and start work on a significant number of high quality developments.
- Gross value of the Group's properties now exceeds £2.1 billion.
- The Group remains well financed with exposure to high interest rates minimised.
- Industrial property, the dominant interest of the Group, has been less affected by declining demand and vacancies remain at a low level.
- "I believe Britain's economic stability is much better based than in earlier cycles and although 1990 will be a harsh year for British business, I am confident that, unless unforeseen circumstances arise, the Group will record another successful year."

	1989	1988	Increase
Profit before tax	£87.3m	£75.1m	16.2%
Profit attributable to shareholders	£63.2m	£52.9m	19.5%
Earnings per share — basic	22.5p	19.0p	18.4%
— diluted	21.0p	18.3p	14.8%
Dividends per share	10.8p	8.9p	21.3%
Net assets per share — basic	488p	395p	23.5%
— diluted	464p	382p	21.5%

To obtain a copy of the 1989 Preliminary Announcement and the 1989 Annual Report, to be published in April, please write to the Secretary, Slough Estates plc, 234 Bath Road, Slough SL1 4EE, England.

SLOUGH ESTATES

ONE OF BRITAIN'S LEADING INTERNATIONAL PROPERTY COMPANIES

Property setback for Swire

From Lala Yu, Hong Kong

SWIRE Pacific has reported net profits of HK\$3.08 billion (£241.7 million) for 1989, up 2.7 per cent but slightly below market expectations.

It saw operating profits fall from HK\$5.65 billion to HK\$5.53 billion despite increased earnings from its 52 per cent-owned Cathay Pacific Airways, which reported net profits up 18 per cent to HK\$3.32 billion.

Turnover rose 10 per cent to HK\$27.68 billion while net

finance charges more than halved to HK\$267.6 million. Earnings per A share rose from 190.2 to 194.2 cents and for the B shares from 38 to 38.8 cents.

The A and B share split allows the founding Swire family, which holds 27 per cent, to control almost 50 per cent of the voting rights.

Mr David Gledhill, the chairman, said that despite another good year for Cathay Pacific, which thrived on

strong demand, the group suffered lower results in the property sector. He said: "Although the full benefit of substantial increases in rental income from the investment property portfolio will not be recorded until after 1990, prospects for the group for the current year are reasonable."

A final dividend of 57 cents will be paid on each A share, making 80 cents (76 cents) and the B will receive 11.4 cents, making 16 cents (15.2 cents).

Exports aid 49% advance at Jeyes

By Philip Pangalos

A HEALTHY advance in overseas earnings boosted profits at Jeyes Group, the manufacturer of household cleaning and hygiene products, including Parozone bleach and Jeyes fluid.

Pre-tax profits rose by 49 per cent to £2.36 million in the year to end-December, on turnover up 23 per cent to £44.6 million. The performance was boosted by Wet Ones moist tissues, a product that has seen strong growth since Jeyes acquired it from Sterling Health last March. It accounts for about 10 per cent of sales.

Exports, which account for 12 per cent of group sales and 40 per cent of operating profits, advanced by 49 per cent and were particularly

strong in Europe and the Far East.

Earnings per share growth was restricted to 7 per cent at 16.2p, due to a higher tax charge and an increase in shares. The final dividend is raised to 2.8p (0.9p), making 4.7p (0.9p) for the year.

Profits were also helped by the inclusion of a £195,000 exceptional gain arising from a change in accounting procedures for depreciation.

Mr Jimmy Moir, managing director, said that British market shares had improved in all core areas in 1989, with sales for branded goods improving by 24 per cent and customer own brands ahead by 23 per cent. However, sales to industrial customers had fallen by 4 per cent.

Why BES needs rush of investors

FAMILY Money on Saturday looks at why Business Expansion Scheme issues are counting on a last-minute rush from investors before the tax year ends next week. With days to

go, many companies are struggling to net the minimum they need to go ahead.

There is also some advice on how to cut the cost of inheritance tax, and we review Britain's first gold investment trust, which goes on offer next week.

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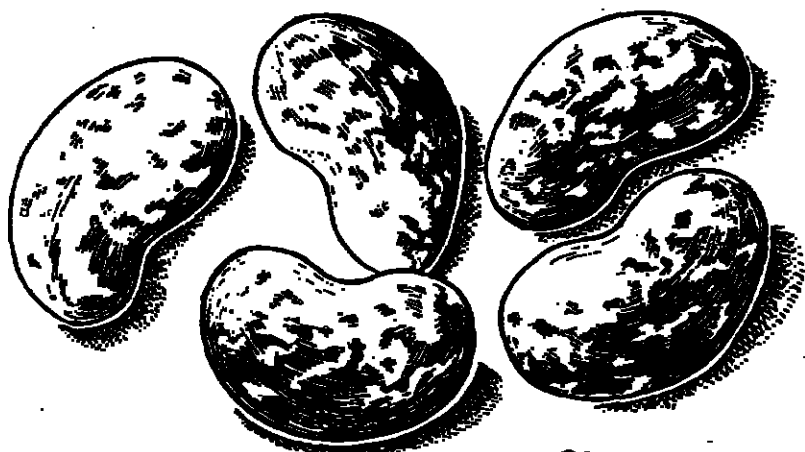
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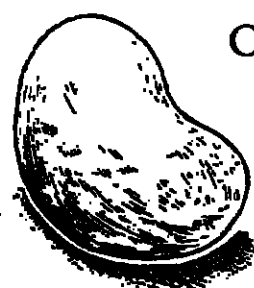
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Not surprisingly, the *figure 1.*
management at Lambton Park Garden

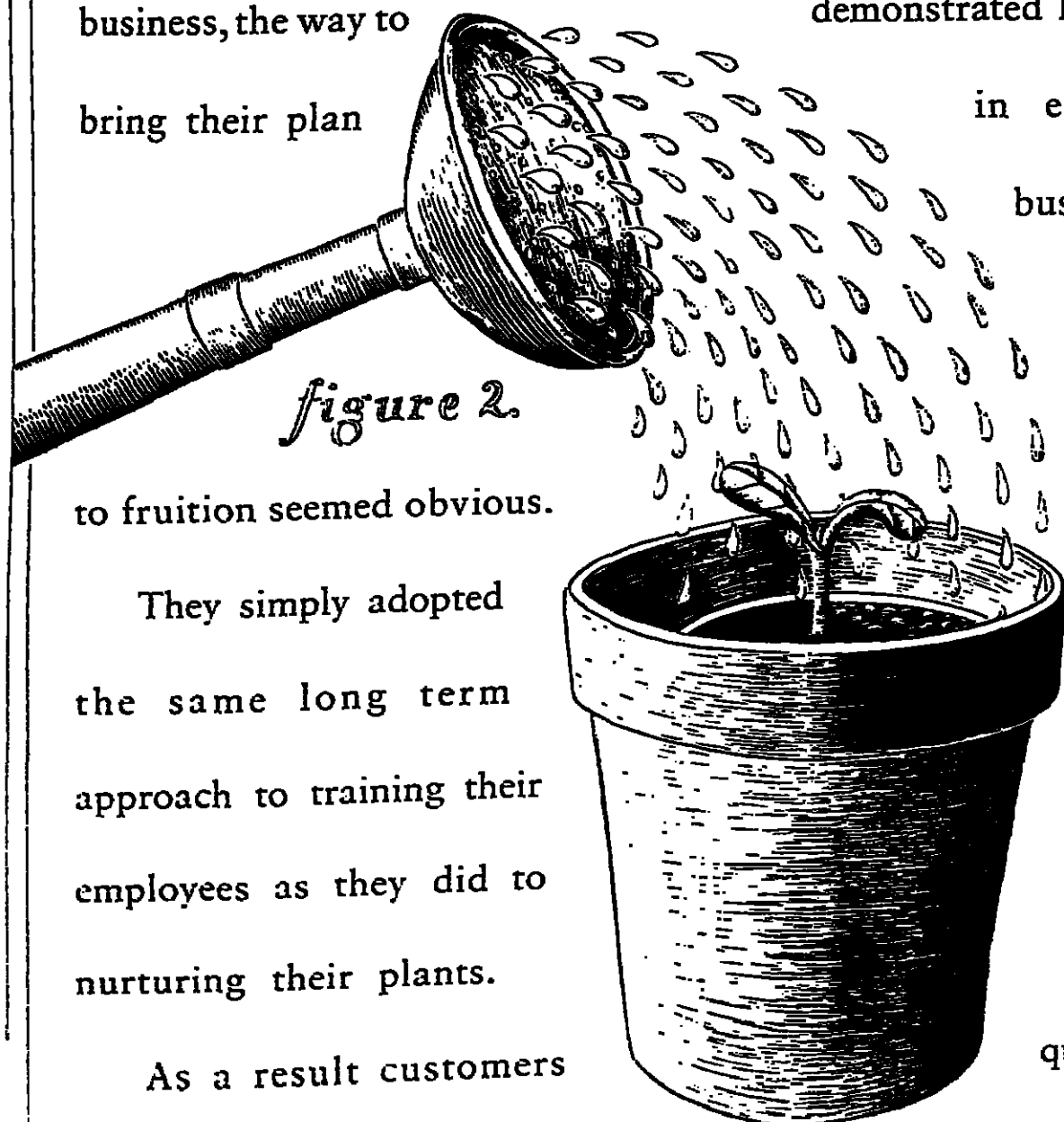


Centre has always been keen
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Which explains
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(Turnover has increased
tenfold since 1977.)

This positive

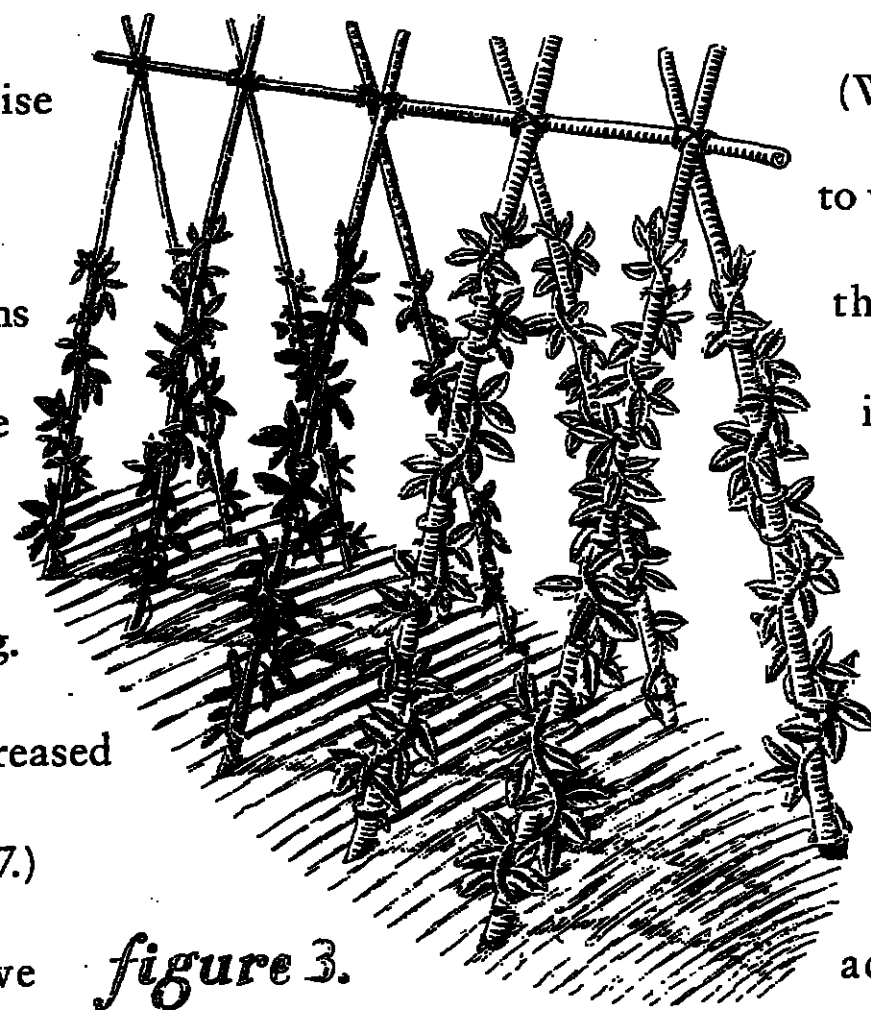
attitude to staff training was shared by
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STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES

Lacklustre trading

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began March 26. Dealings end April 6. Contango day April 9. Settlement day April 17.
Forward bargains are permitted on two previous business days.

Prices recorded are at market close. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Where one price is quoted, it is a middle price. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices. (as) denotes Alpha Stocks. (VOLUMES: PAGE 26).

Portfolio
PLATINUM

From your Portfolio Platinum card check your eight share price movements on this page only. Add them up to give you your overall total and check this against the daily dividend figure. If it matches you have won outright or a share of the daily prize money stated. If you win, follow the claim procedure on the back of your card. Always have your card available when claiming. Game rules appear on the back of your card.

No.	Company	Group	Gain or loss
1	Yorkshire TV	Leisure	
2	Wilson (Conolly)	Building, Roads	
3	More O'Ferrall	Paper, Print, Adv	
4	Underlay (as)	Industrials S-Z	
5	LASMO (as)	Oil, Gas	
6	Nat West (as)	Banks, Discount	
7	Harrold Ind	Building, Roads	
8	Robinson	Industrials L-R	
9	Quadrant Group	Leisure	
10	Raymond Williams	Building, Roads	
11	Gr Portland	Property	
12	Amrad (as)	Electricals	
13	Underlay	Industrials S-Z	
14	Cay Elect	Electricals	
15	Moran Food	Electricals	
16	Bartlett (as)	Banks, Discount	
17	Sutton	Electricals	
18	Carlo Eng	Industrials A-D	
19	Robinson (Thomas)	Industrials L-R	
20	Pearson (as)	Newspapers, Pub	
21	Worrier	Industrials S-Z	
22	Vimplan	Building, Roads	
23	Slough Estates (as)	Property	
24	APV	Industrials A-D	
25	Goring Kern	Industrials E-K	
26	Unicel	Electricals	
27	Blair Ind	Paper, Print, Adv	
28	Furry Group	Industrials E-K	
29	Nigh-Print	Industrials E-K	
30	Boddington	Breweries	
31	Wood (SW)	Industrials S-Z	
32	Sussex Goldsmith	Property	
33	Reed Ind (as)	Newspapers, Pub	
34	HTV Group	Leisure	
35	Budgen	Food	
36	Airwoods	Building, Roads	
37	Derwinds (JA)	Breweries	
38	St John	Industrials S-Z	
39	Inland Franch	Food	
40	Jones & Shipman	Industrials E-K	
41	Ather	Building, Roads	
42	Lee & Edin Tst	Property	
43	Black (A&C)	Newspapers, Pub	
44	Greydon	Property	

Please take into account any minus signs

Weekly Dividend						
Please make a note of your daily totals for the weekly dividend of £4,000 in tomorrow's newspaper.						
MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	Weekly Total

There were no valid claims in yesterday's £4,000 Portfolio Platinum competition, so today's prize money accumulates to £6,000.

BRITISH FUNDS

1989	High	Low	Open	Close
1000	1000	1000	1000	1000
2000	2000	2000	2000	2000
3000	3000	3000	3000	3000
4000	4000	4000	4000	4000
5000	5000	5000	5000	5000
6000	6000	6000	6000	6000
7000	7000	7000	7000	7000
8000	8000	8000	8000	8000
9000	9000	9000	9000	9000
10000	10000	10000	10000	10000

FIVE TO FIFTEEN YEARS

1989	High	Low	Open	Close
1000	1000	1000	1000	1000
2000	2000	2000	2000	2000
3000	3000	3000	3000	3000
4000	4000	4000	4000	4000
5000	5000	5000	5000	5000
6000	6000	6000	6000	6000
7000	7000	7000	7000	7000
8000	8000	8000	8000	8000
9000	9000	9000	9000	9000
10000	10000	10000	10000	10000

OVER FIFTEEN YEARS

1989	High	Low	Open	Close
1000	1000	1000	1000	1000
2000	2000	2000	2000	2000
3000	3000	3000	3000	3000
4000	4000	4000	4000	4000
5000	5000	5000	5000	5000
6000	6000	6000	6000	6000
7000	7000	7000	7000	7000
8000	8000	8000	8000	8000
9000	9000	9000	9000	9000
10000	10000	10000	10000	10000

UNDATED

1989	High	Low	Open	Close
1000	1000	1000	1000	1000
2000	2000	2000	2000	2000
3000	3000	3000	3000	3000
4000	4000	4000	4000	4000
5000	5000	5000	5000	5000
6000	6000	6000	6000	6000
7000	7000	7000	7000	7000
8000	8000	8000	8000	8000
9000	9000	9000	9000	9000
10000	10000	10000	10000	10000

INDEX LINKED

1989	High	Low	Open	Close
1000	1000	1000	1000	1000
2000	2000	2000	2000	2000
3000	3000	3000	3000	3000
4000	4000	4000	4000	4000
5000	5000	5000	5000	5000
6000	6000	6000	6000	6000
7000	7000	7000	7000	7000
8000	8000	8000	8000	8000
9000	9000	9000	9000	9000
10000	10000	10000	10000	10000

BANKS, DISCOUNT HP

1989	High	Low	Open	Close
1000	1000	1000	1000	1000
2000	2000	2000	2000	2000
3000	3000	3000	3000	3000
4000	4000	4000	4000	4000
5000	5000	5000	5000	5000
6000	6000	6000	6000	6000
7000	7000	7000	7000	7000
8000	8000	8000	8000	8000
9000	9000	9000	9000	9000
10000	10000	10000	10000	10000

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2	Wilson (Conolly)	Building, Roads	
3	More O'Ferrall	Paper, Print, Adv	
4	Underlay (as)	Industrials S-Z	
5	LASMO (as)	Oil, Gas	
6	Nat West (as)	Banks, Discount	
7	Harrold Ind	Building, Roads	
8	Robinson	Industrials L-R	
9	Quadrant Group	Leisure	
10	Raymond Williams	Building, Roads	
11	Gr Portland	Property	
12	Amrad (as)	Electricals	
13	Underlay	Industrials S-Z	
14	Cay Elect	Electricals	
15	Moran Food	Electricals	
16	Bartlett (as)	Banks, Discount	
17	Sutton	Electricals	
18	Carlo Eng	Industrials A-D	
19	Robinson (Thomas)	Industrials L-R	
20	Pearson (as)	Newspapers, Pub	
21	Worrier	Industrials S-Z	
22	Vimplan	Building, Roads	
23	Slough Estates (as)	Property	
24	APV	Industrials A-D	
25	Goring Kern	Industrials E-K	
26	Unicel	Electricals	
27	Blair Ind	Paper, Print, Adv	
28	Furry Group	Industrials E-K	
29	Nigh-Print	Industrials E-K	
30	Boddington	Breweries	
31	Wood (SW)	Industrials S-Z	
32	Sussex Goldsmith	Property	
33	Reed Ind (as)	Newspapers, Pub	
34	HTV Group	Leisure	
35	Budgen	Food	
36	Airwoods	Building, Roads	
37	Derwinds (JA)	Breweries	
38	St John	Industrials S-Z	
39	Inland Franch	Food	
40	Jones & Shipman	Industrials E-K	
41	Ather	Building, Roads	
42	Lee & Edin Tst	Property	
43	Black (A&C)	Newspapers, Pub	
44	Greydon	Property	

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44	Greydon	Property	

No.	Company	Group	Gain or loss
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[illegible][illegible][illegible][illegible]

Ireland	1,573.0-1,573.0	Denmark	1,430.0-1,430.0	Italy	1,250.0-1,251.0
Singapore	1,655.0-1,658.0	W Germany	1,422.0-1,422.0	Saudi Arabia	1,210.0-1,210.0
Malaysia	1,620.0-1,620.0	W Australia	1,503.0-1,504.0	Singapore (Com)	35.12-35.35
Australia	1,320.0-1,320.0	W Canada	1,910.0-1,910.0	Hong Kong	7,815.25-7,815.25
Canada	1,175.0-1,175.0	Netherlands	1,910.0-1,910.0	Portugal	1,435.0-1,437.0
Sweden	6,130.0-6,130.0	France	5,712.5-5,712.5	Spain	108.50-108.50
Norway	6,570.0-6,570.0	Japan	157.10-157.20	Austria	11.94-11.95

Rates supplied by Barclays Bank GTS and Exel.

Euro Money Deposits %		EURO MONEY DEPOSITS %				
Overnight High: 14% Low: 14% Week Start: 14%		Currency	7 day	1 mth	3 mth	6 mth
Transamerica (Discount %)		Dollar	8%+0%	8%+0%	8%+0%	8%+0%
Transamerica (Rate %)	14%+14% 14%+14%	Cad: 8%+7%				
Transamerica (Rate %)	14%+14% 14%+14%	Deutschmark:	7%+7%	7%+7%	8%+8%	8%+8%
Transamerica (Rate %)	14%+14% 14%+14%	French Franc:	10%+10%	10%+10%	10%+10%	10%+10%
Transamerica (Rate %)	14%+14% 14%+14%	Swiss Franc:	9%+9%	9%+9%	9%+9%	9%+9%
Transamerica (Rate %)	14%+14% 14%+14%	Cad: 8%+8%				
Transamerica (Rate %)	14%+14% 14%+14%	Yen:	7%+7%	7%+7%	7%+7%	7%+7%
Transamerica (Rate %)	14%+14% 14%+14%					

Sailing Club (%) 1 mth: 15%-14%
 3 mth: 15%-15%
Dollar Clubs (%) 1 mth: 8.25-30
 3 mth: 6.40-6.55 12 mth: 6.57-6.52
Bathing Society Clubs (%)
 1 mth: 15%-14% 3 mth: 15%-15%
 1 mth: 15%-14% 3 mth: 15%-15%

F.C.G.

GOLD COINS (Per coin, ex VAT)
 Dortmund: \$380.00-385.00 (\$223.00-230.00)
 Kuglerstadt: \$371.00-374.00 (\$228.00-230.00)
 Hainpolder (Yr): \$380.00-385.00 (\$233.00-238.00)
 Hainpolder (M): \$380.00-395.00 (\$233.00-236.00)
 New Switzerland: \$380.00-395.00 (\$233.00-236.00)

Currently 15.311 per cent. Guarantee rate 15.311 per cent. Reference rate Mar 1, 1990 to Mar 30, 1990 .
 Scheme IV & V: 15.311 per cent.

FT-SE 100		Previous close interest 2528		Three months ECU		High		Low		Close		Vol	
Jan 80	2282.0	2284.0	2287.0	2282.0	7788	Jan 80	88.10	88.10	Previous open interest	4258	4258	4258	4258
Jan 80	88.10	88.10	88.10	88.10	88.10	Jan 80	88.10	88.10	Previous open interest	4258	4258	4258	4258
Three Month Sterling		Previous close interest 153027											
Jan 80	84.75	84.75	84.75	84.75	84.75	Jan 80	84.75	84.75	Previous open interest	153027	153027	153027	153027
Jan 80	84.75	84.75	84.75	84.75	84.75	Jan 80	84.75	84.75	Previous open interest	153027	153027	153027	153027
Three Month Eurodollar		Previous close interest 26878											
Jan 80	91.36	91.36	91.36	91.36	2450	Jan 80	91.36	91.36	Previous open interest	26878	26878	26878	26878
Jan 80	91.36	91.36	91.36	91.36	2450	Jan 80	91.36	91.36	Previous open interest	26878	26878	26878	26878
Three Month Euro DM		Previous close interest 55706											
Jan 80	91.26	91.26	91.26	91.26	9147	Jan 80	91.26	91.26	Previous open interest	55706	55706	55706	55706
Jan 80	91.26	91.26	91.26	91.26	9147	Jan 80	91.26	91.26	Previous open interest	55706	55706	55706	55706
Three Month Euro Yen		Previous close interest 55706											
Jan 80	91.26	91.26	91.26	91.26	9147	Jan 80	91.26	91.26	Previous open interest	55706	55706	55706	55706
Jan 80	91.26	91.26	91.26	91.26	9147	Jan 80	91.26	91.26	Previous open interest	55706	55706	55706	55706

LONDON FOX		LONDON METAL EXCHANGE			
Official prices/price previous day		3 month		Russet Wet	
Copper		Vol		Tonn	
COGODA	AMT FUTURES	Dec 1820-1827.0		1582.0-1583.5	
Apr 756.62	Dec 820.50	1620.0-1670.0		485.0-486.0	
May 774.75	May 820.50	1640.0-1641.0		1550.0-1570.0	
Jun 787.50	Jun 820.50	1650.0-1659.0		668.0-667.0	
Jul 797.50	Jul 820.50	1660.0-1661.0		1550.0-1570.0	
Aug 807.50	Aug 820.50	1670.0-1671.0		668.0-667.0	
Sep 817.50	Sep 820.50	1680.0-1681.0		1550.0-1570.0	
Oct 827.50	Oct 820.50	1690.0-1691.0		668.0-667.0	
Nov 837.50	Nov 820.50	1700.0-1701.0		1550.0-1570.0	
Dec 847.50	Dec 820.50	1710.0-1711.0		668.0-667.0	
Jan 857.50	Jan 820.50	1720.0-1721.0		1550.0-1570.0	
Feb 867.50	Feb 820.50	1730.0-1731.0		668.0-667.0	
Mar 877.50	Mar 820.50	1740.0-1741.0		1550.0-1570.0	
Apr 887.50	Apr 820.50	1750.0-1751.0		668.0-667.0	
May 897.50	May 820.50	1760.0-1761.0		1550.0-1570.0	
Jun 907.50	Jun 820.50	1770.0-1771.0		668.0-667.0	
Jul 917.50	Jul 820.50	1780.0-1781.0		1550.0-1570.0	
Aug 927.50	Aug 820.50	1790.0-1791.0		668.0-667.0	
Sep 937.50	Sep 820.50	1800.0-1801.0		1550.0-1570.0	
Oct 947.50	Oct 820.50	1810.0-1811.0		668.0-667.0	
Nov 957.50	Nov 820.50	1820.0-1821.0		1550.0-1570.0	
Dec 967.50	Dec 820.50	1830.0-1831.0		668.0-667.0	
Jan 977.50	Jan 820.50	1840.0-1841.0		1550.0-1570.0	
Feb 987.50	Feb 820.50	1850.0-1851.0		668.0-667.0	
Mar 997.50	Mar 820.50	1860.0-1861.0		1550.0-1570.0	
Apr 1007.50	Apr 820.50	1870.0-1871.0		668.0-667.0	
May 1017.50	May 820.50	1880.0-1881.0		1550.0-1570.0	
Jun 1027.50	Jun 820.50	1890.0-1891.0		668.0-667.0	
Jul 1037.50	Jul 820.50	1900.0-1901.0		1550.0-1570.0	
Aug 1047.50	Aug 820.50	1910.0-1911.0		668.0-667.0	
Sep 1057.50	Sep 820.50	1920.0-1921.0		1550.0-1570.0	
Oct 1067.50	Oct 820.50	1930.0-1931.0		668.0-667.0	
Nov 1077.50	Nov 820.50	1940.0-1941.0		1550.0-1570.0	
Dec 1087.50	Dec 820.50	1950.0-1951.0		668.0-667.0	
Jan 1097.50	Jan 820.50	1960.0-1961.0		1550.0-1570.0	
Feb 1107.50	Feb 820.50	1970.0-1971.0		668.0-667.0	
Mar 1117.50	Mar 820.50	1980.0-1981.0		1550.0-1570.0	
Apr 1127.50	Apr 820.50	1990.0-1991.0		668.0-667.0	
May 1137.50	May 820.50	2000.0-2001.0		1550.0-1570.0	
Jun 1147.50	Jun 820.50	2010.0-2011.0		668.0-667.0	
Jul 1157.50	Jul 820.50	2020.0-2021.0		1550.0-1570.0	
Aug 1167.50	Aug 820.50	2030.0-2031.0		668.0-667.0	
Sep 1177.50	Sep 820.50	2040.0-2041.0		1550.0-1570.0	
Oct 1187.50	Oct 820.50	2050.0-2051.0		668.0-667.0	
Nov 1197.50	Nov 820.50	2060.0-2061.0		1550.0-1570.0	
Dec 1207.50	Dec 820.50	2070.0-2071.0		668.0-667.0	
Jan 1217.50	Jan 820.50	2080.0-2081.0		1550.0-1570.0	
Feb 1227.50	Feb 820.50	2090.0-2091.0		668.0-667.0	
Mar 1237.50	Mar 820.50	2100.0-2101.0		1550.0-1570.0	
Apr 1247.50	Apr 820.50	2110.0-2111.0		668.0-667.0	
May 1257.50	May 820.50	2120.0-2121.0		1550.0-1570.0	
Jun 1267.50	Jun 820.50	2130.0-2131.0		668.0-667.0	
Jul 1277.50	Jul 820.50	2140.0-2141.0		1550.0-1570.0	
Aug 1287.50	Aug 820.50	2150.0-2151.0		668.0-667.0	
Sep 1297.50	Sep 820.50	2160.0-2161.0		1550.0-1570.0	
Oct 1307.50	Oct 820.50	2170.0-2171.0		668.0-667.0	
Nov 1317.50	Nov 820.50	2180.0-2181.0		1550.0-1570.0	
Dec 1327.50	Dec 820.50	2190.0-2191.0		668.0-667.0	
Jan 1337.50	Jan 820.50	2200.0-2201.0		1550.0-1570.0	
Feb 1347.50	Feb 820.50	2210.0-2211.0		668.0-667.0	
Mar 1357.50	Mar 820.50	2220.0-2221.0		1550.0-1570.0	
Apr 1367.50	Apr 820.50	2230.0-2231.0		668.0-667.0	
May 1377.50	May 820.50	2240.0-2241.0		1550.0-1570.0	
Jun 1387.50	Jun 820.50	2250.0-2251.0		668.0-667.0	
Jul 1397.50	Jul 820.50	2260.0-2261.0		1550.0-1570.0	
Aug 1407.50	Aug 820.50	2270.0-2271.0		668.0-667.0	
Sep 1417.50	Sep 820.50	2280.0-2281.0		1550.0-1570.0	
Oct 1427.50	Oct 820.50	2290.0-2291.0		668.0-667.0	
Nov 1437.50	Nov 820.50	2300.0-2301.0		1550.0-1570.0	
Dec 1447.50	Dec 820.50	2310.0-2311.0		668.0-667.0	
Jan 1457.50	Jan 820.50	2320.0-2321.0		1550.0-1570.0	
Feb 1467.50	Feb 820.50	2330.0-2331.0		668.0-667.0	
Mar 1477.50	Mar 820.50	2340.0-2341.0		1550.0-1570.0	
Apr 1487.50	Apr 820.50	2350.0-2351.0		668.0-667.0	
May 1497.50	May 820.50	2360.0-2361.0		1550.0-1570.0	
Jun 1507.50	Jun 820.50	2370.0-2371.0		668.0-667.0	
Jul 1517.50	Jul 820.50	2380.0-2381.0		1550.0-1570.0	
Aug 1527.50	Aug 820.50	2390.0-2391.0		668.0-667.0	
Sep 1537.50	Sep 820.50	2400.0-2401.0		1550.0-1570.0	
Oct 1547.50	Oct 820.50	2410.0-2411.0		668.0-667.0	
Nov 1557.50	Nov 820.50	2420.0-2421.0		1550.0-1570.0	
Dec 1567.50	Dec 820.50	2430.0-2431.0		668.0-667.0	
Jan 1577.50	Jan 820.50	2440.0-2441.0		1550.0-1570.0	
Feb 1587.50	Feb 820.50	2450.0-2451.0		668.0-667.0	
Mar 1597.50	Mar 820.50	2460.0-2461.0		1550.0-1570.0	
Apr 1607.50	Apr 820.50	2470.0-2471.0		668.0-667.0	
May 1617.50	May 820.50	2480.0-2481.0		1550.0-1570.0	
Jun 1627.50	Jun 820.50	2490.0-2491.0		668.0-667.0	
Jul 1637.50	Jul 820.50	2500.0-2501.0		1550.0-1570.0	
Aug 1647.50	Aug 820.50	2510.0-2511.0		668.0-667.0	
Sep 1657.50	Sep 820.50	2520.0-2521.0		1550.0-1570.0	
Oct 1667.50	Oct 820.50	2530.0-2531.0		668.0-667.0	
Nov 1677.50	Nov 820.50	2540.0-2541.0		1550.0-1570.0	
Dec 1687.50	Dec 820.50	2550.0-2551.0		668.0-667.0	
Jan 1697.50	Jan 820.50	2560.0-2561.0		1550.0-1570.0	
Feb 1707.50	Feb 820.50	2570.0-2571.0		668.0-667.0	
Mar 1717.50	Mar 820.50	2580.0-2581.0		1550.0-1570.0	
Apr 1727.50	Apr 820.50	2590.0-2591.0		668.0-667.0	
May 1737.50	May 820.50	2600.0-2601.0		1550.0-1570.0	
Jun 1747.50	Jun 820.50	2610.0-2611.0		668.0-667.0	
Jul 1757.50	Jul 820.50	2620.0-2621.0		1550.0-1570.0	
Aug 1767.50	Aug 820.50	2630.0-2631.0		668.0-667.0	
Sep 1777.50	Sep 820.50	2640.0-2641.0		1550.0-1570.0	
Oct 1787.50	Oct 820.50	2650.0-2651.0		668.0-667.0	
Nov 1797.50	Nov 820.50	2660.0-2661.0		1550.0-1570.0	
Dec 1807.50	Dec 820.50	2670.0-2671.0		668.0-667.0	
Jan 1817.50	Jan 820.50	2680.0-2681.0		1550.0-1570.0	
Feb 1827.50	Feb 820.50	2690.0-2691.0		668.0-667.0	
Mar 1837.50	Mar 820.50	2700.0-2701.0		1550.0-1570.0	
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Jun 1867.50	Jun 820.50	2730.0-2731.0		668.0-667.0	
Jul 1877.50	Jul 820.50	2740.0-2741.0		1550.0-1570.0	
Aug 1887.50	Aug 820.50	2750.0-2751.0		668.0-667.0	
Sep 1897.50	Sep 820.50	2760.0-2761.0		1550.0-1570.0	
Oct 1907.50	Oct 820.50	2770.0-2771.0		668.0-667.0	
Nov 1917.50	Nov 820.50	2780.0-2781.0		15	

فَكَتَبْنَا مِنْ رِجَالِهِ

MOTORING

By Kevin Eason
Motoring Correspondent

Jaguar takes the fight to its rivals

Jaguar will be the British rival to BMW by the year 2000 if ambitious plans by the company's new masters at Ford are realized. The man taking over the driving seat from Sir John Egan at the famous Coventry company gave a hint of what he expects from the business in return for the £1.6 billion paid by the Americans for the pride of British "Big Cats".

Bill Hayden says within 15 years Jaguar should be building 200,000 cars each year. The mainstay XJ6 saloon series will continue, although it is certain to be revamped in the mid-1990s, as will the XJ-S grand tourer which is overdue for a radical facelift.

Meanwhile, the long-awaited XJ220, the 200mph supercar which has enthusiasts queuing for a car which rivals the Ferrari F40 and Porsche 959, is expected to arrive in two years.

Also due for release is the F-Type sports car, the replacement E-Type, which Jaguar engineers have been working on for some time, but which needed the sort of money Ford will provide to get under way.

More important for sales volume, however, will be what Hayden describes as "a sporty saloon",

Britain's 'Big Cat' has gained added vigour and fresh direction from its new management

a mid-range car capable of competing with BMW's successful 5-series range, which has captured sales in the lucrative low end of the executive segment.

These early plans lead Jaguar in a new direction, away from the image built up over decades by founder Sir William Lyons, and then Egan, of Jaguar as a maker of exclusive hand-built cars.

Mr Hayden says that Jaguar's way of making cars is too inefficient to allow large volumes to be handled. He says quality is good "for a hand-built car" — meaning that there are bound to be inconsistencies in the manufacturing which result in one very good car, and one not so good. To compete with BMW, they all have to be good.

Skilled wood and leather craftsmen will remain to add essential

trimming, but mass production techniques are on their way with increased automation of assembly lines.

If BMW can mechanize assembly lines and still uphold a reputation for quality, why not Jaguar? Better production facilities would give better consistency of build quality, the standard so admired of Mercedes, for example. Ford will not expect to see any change out of the £1 billion needed to put all of this into operation.

Meanwhile, Jaguar is already benefitting from the comfort of having the parental arm of Ford around the business — for the other arm is happily twisting component suppliers into doing their part to revitalize the company.

During Jaguar's worst days, components were blamed for 60 per cent of breakdowns. Despite major improvements, 160,000 cars had to be recalled world-wide because of faults in braking and cruise-control systems a month ago.

Unfortunately, Jaguar spends £800 million annually on the bits under the bonnet, but still only makes 50,000 cars. Major component firms able to develop new, more reliable products simply did



Jaguar's F-Type sports car, the replacement for the E-Type, goes through its paces on the test track

not want to get involved with such small volumes. They do now though: suppliers with the chance of contracts for Ford or Europe, which makes about two million vehicles a year, are suddenly desperate to help.

If that muscle power helps Jaguar avoid embarrassing recalls, Ford will have brought a major bonus to the Coventry company in the form of reassurance for buyers who want style, but have no ambitions to park their limousines in a layby waiting for a breakdown truck.

Jaguar will certainly miss Sir John Egan, however. In these days

of multinational conglomerates, when men in blue suits rule the car factories, few personalities have been so strongly identified with their product.

Sir John was the embodiment of Jaguar, down to the dark green company tie, silver striped and emblazoned with leaping Big Cats, which he wore at every company occasion.

In fact, there might not have been a Jaguar but for the strength of will which he brought to the ailing company when he moved in on April 1, 1980.

Mr Hayden says that the Government and BL, which owned Jaguar then, was only days away from "putting out the lights" on

the company's Browns Lane plant.

Under Sir John, however, the Big Cat roared back from near bankruptcy, raising production from a meagre 14,000 to about 50,000 vehicles.

Moreover, Sir John raised public confidence in Jaguar to a point where the company was expected to make cars as good as, or better than, the best Japanese or German vehicles.

It is a pity he was unable to achieve the dream of an independent, all-British Jaguar; as so often happens in industry, the money ran out before the enthusiasm. His compensation will be the knowledge there will still be Jaguars on the road in the next century.

Dealership looks east

ROADWISE

■ A sign of the times, Porsche has lost its biggest dealership, Follett, to the Japanese. The company has decided that a single line of high-priced luxury cars is not the way of the future and has decided to join Mazda after 15 years with Porsche. Follett will also be signing up with Toyota, including exclusive dealerships required for Lexus, the new luxury car due here in the autumn. David Piggott, Follett's chief executive, says the changing economy means it must offer a wider choice of vehicles than just "exotics for the very rich". Porsche now opens up with Dutton Forshaw, distributor of Rolls-Royces and Jaguars, in North London for the first time.

■ Don't pay the poll tax, drive the car, says Hyundai UK, offering to pay a year's poll tax for customers buying Stellar saloons over the next two months. Part of an aggressive sales campaign, deals on offer include a money-back guarantee on Pony saloons and hatchbacks. Dissatisfied customers get their cash back provided the car has fewer than 500 miles on the clock and is undamaged.

■ Diesel power from the Citroën XM, Europe's car of the year, launched this week. Turbo-charged with three valves per cylinder, the 2-litre offers 119mph top speed, but 57.5 miles to the gallon of derv at a steady 56mph. Prices: £16,899, £18,449 and £21,119.

■ The Institute of Advanced Motorists has set up a training scheme for motor cyclists on machines over 200cc with Daytona Kawasaki, of Windmill Hill, Ruislip Manor, Middlesex. New buyers get six free lessons at Harrow Driving Centre from the IAM's top instructors.

■ Hometune, the company which carries out an engine service on the customer's doorstep, has completed 10,000 conversions to unleaded fuel. Although the move to cleaner petrol is well established, Hometune says it will still convert cars free of charge.

■ The Royal Automobile Club says that up to 75 per cent of all new company cars this year will have RAC cover. That gives the organization a 36 per cent share of the company fleet market, forcing it to set up a separate division, RAC Business Services, which will be unveiled at the Fleet Motor Show in May.

■ Pity the new car salesman on his first day asked by the boss his opinion of the Renault Five. He beamed: "They're all innocent, Sir."

Rover impresses with a car for all reasons

The Germans are in danger of losing their traditional pole position as leaders of the class for small, prestigious quality saloons to, of all things, a British company.

Rover this week launched its new 400 series saloons, booted versions of the little 200 hatchbacks which entered the market at the end of last year and started a run on sales in the first few months of 1990.

The immediate target for the model is the Ford Orion, the booted Escort, which has maintained a place among the top 10 best-sellers as a favourite with fleet and private buyers alike.

If the Orion is to be overtaken, Rover will have to hit all of its ambitions: production and quality targets to overcome the fear that its cars suffer from problems with reliability.

ROAD TEST

Rover says its 400 series brings class-leading performance, and luxury to a sector which accounts for about 1.2 million of all new car sales annually.

This is no idle boast: the 400 has more luxury and trim than an Orion, which allows it to compete for customers with BMW and Audi.

Typical buyers could come from either end of the age scale — a family man or woman looking for big-car luxury in a smaller, more economical saloon, or a retired buyer wanting lower fuel consumption and maintenance costs, but anxious not to give up the wood and leather luxury of the Rover limousine.

The 400 fulfils both sets of requirements with the boot offer-

ing a cavernous 14.5 cu ft of space, and generous head and leg room in the passenger compartment. All models have plush interior fittings: walnut trim, a well-laid out fascia and four-speaker stereo.

Under the bonnet, the car, like its 200 series sister, gets the choice of the Longbridge-built K-series 1.4-litre, 16-valve engine, or the meatier 1.6-litre from Honda. For the frugal-minded, the 1.4-litre 414Si and 414SLi are good for 53.5 miles to the gallon of unleaded petrol at a constant 56mph — enough to cover 300 miles on one 12-gallon tank.

For the more sporty, the 416GTi is a 128 brake horsepower cracker, capable of more than 120mph, although it is the car's clean acceleration in third and fourth gears which is more important and which impresses most. In fact, the 400 series does

many things for many buyers. It is better than most in the Orion class and has enough to challenge BMW's 1.6-litre cars and the Audi 80.

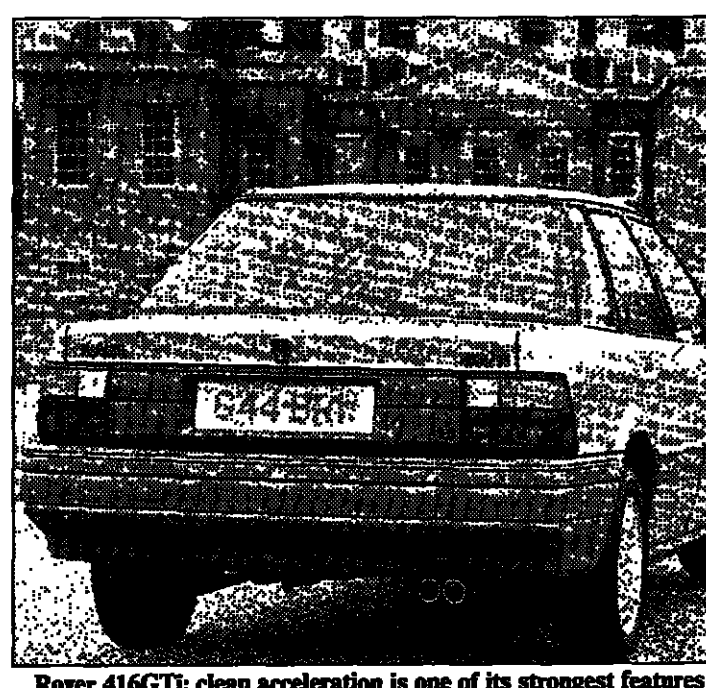
ROVER 400 SERIES

Prices: 414Si £9,565; 414SLi £10,410; 416GTi £11,990; 416GTi £13,795.

Engines: choice of British-built 1.4-litre, 16-valve (four per cylinder) developing 94bhp (91 cf catalyst equipped); or 1.6-litre, 16-valve for 128bhp.

Performance: 1.4 litre engines: 0 to 60mph in 11.1 secs (11.5 for catalyst car); top speed 106mph. 1.6-litre engines: 0 to 60mph in 9.2 secs (GSI), 8.6 secs (GTi); top speed 120mph (GSI), 124mph (GTi).

Economy: 1.4 litres, 32.6 mpg in town (33.1 for catalyst car); 1.6 litres, 29.3mpg (GSI) 28.5mpg (GTi).



Rover 416GTi: clean acceleration is one of its strongest features

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THE TIMES

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THE TIMES FRIDAY MARCH 30 1990

Lamb takes reins as Gower steps back into the fray

From Alan Lee, Cricket Correspondent, Port of Spain, Trinidad

England's captaincy was once more an emotive issue yesterday as Graham Gower miserably acknowledged he has virtually no chance of playing in the climax of a mission which he has led by inspiration.

But even as Gower was handing over to Allan Lamb for the two remaining Test matches, he was re-stating his influence on this tour by initiating the improbably, romantic return of his deposed predecessor, David Gower.

It was Gower who, on Wednesday night, returned from an hour-long operation on his broken left hand and proposed that Gower should be asked to put down the pen and pick up a bat again for England. The first steps in this extraordinary story were taken yesterday, Gower netting with the rest of the party, and he is scheduled to play in the three-day game against Barbados starting today.

Gower will watch Gower's return from the pavilion, which is where he must spend the remaining 14 playing days of this trip. Lamb becomes England's sixth captain in nine Tests against West Indies and it is a moot point whether, as a native South African, he cuts a more unlikely figure than Gower, whose previous tour here was so politically-sensitive he swore it would be his last.

Yesterday, as the team left

behind a tragically lost opportunity in Trinidad and headed north to Barbados, Gower saw no point in pretending he was anything other than fed up. But as he talked, for the first time, of a day which went so savagely wrong, his commitment still shone through.

Gower revealed that he believes his hand was actually broken two overs before he left the field, when he was struck in an identical spot by a similarly lifting delivery from Ezra Moseley. "I punched the first one away with the glove and got a run for it. But I could not hold the bat properly afterwards and I think it was probably broken before he hit me again in the same place."

A hospital X-ray at lunch-time told Gower all he needed to know but, selflessly, he decided that nobody, apart from the team management, must be told until the game was over. "I really didn't want the West Indies to know and get any psychological boost from having me out of the way. To keep it from them, I decided I would not tell our players, either."

Gower was padded up, prepared to bat again, when the match was abandoned in appalling light. It was only then that he broke it to his players that they would have to cope without him.

It is an enormous setback to England for they have come to

depend heavily upon Gower, not just as a wise and worldly director of their batting but, more surprisingly, as a motivator and a considerable tactician.

It is also a personal affront to Gower, who explained: "This will be the first time in my 17-year career that I have ever missed a match through being injured. It was a record I was quite proud of, but I simply have to accept it."

"I know there is not much chance of me getting fit for the last Test, but I will not completely give up until the specialist in Barbados has removed the pins which were put into the hand last night. That will not be for almost two weeks and only then will he know if it has healed."

In the meantime, Lamb, aged 35, is elevated to a role he cannot seriously have considered possible before this tour. Although vastly experienced, Lamb has remained the wisecracking prankster at heart; as vice captain, he has capably complemented Gower, but, with only one season as Northamptonshire captain behind him, his credentials have to be taken on trust.

He did not make the best of starts as leader of this injury-plagued squad by falling over a chair in the airport departure lounge yesterday.



Captain's recruit: the injured Gower (left) prompts return of his predecessor, Gower

Once more unto the breach

A VITAL component in the England batting machine has been withdrawn for repairs, and top-quality spare parts are not easily found at short notice. England's short-term solution has been to seek out a replacement readily available, recently overhauled, but in need of some serious oiling and tuning. If all this sounds somewhat confusing, it is probably because I am somewhat confused as well.

Such a rapid transition from Press box to dressing room smacks of a certain amount of optimism and I have the option to inform the England management this morning if I feel that the idea is beginning to verge on the foolhardy. Still, it is nice to be asked and it would be even nicer if all that positive thinking in the England camp were to rub off and things went well.

My original plans had been to join up with the Hampshire squad in Barbados at the weekend to begin pre-season



DAVID GOWER, who has been covering the England tour of West Indies for *The Times*, has been invited to play for team against Barbados tomorrow. He filed this report just before taking his first net practice for six months.

preparations with five games on the island. The request to consider filling a gap for England against Barbados came out of the blue, and reflects doubts over Nasser Hussain's fitness and the time necessary to bring out an official replacement.

The latest development came when it was revealed that Graham Gower's hand was broken, and the message was delivered for me to go and speak with Graham and the England management during the evening after the Test.

The timing naturally posed one or two logistical problems. The definition as to whether I am now part of the playing party or the Press party is still fairly indistinct.

The next item on the agenda will be the England team's practice session at the Kensington Oval here. My own cricket kit had been packed and waiting in Southampton, ready to accompany the county side at the weekend. Hurried arrangements should bring the equipment to me in Barbados by the evening but I have had to borrow kit for the afternoon.

Only after a possible two net sessions will I really know whether or not it is sensible to play. It will do neither me nor England any good if I attempt to play without being suitably confident. Now that this piece is almost written, it is time to put away the journalist's tools and quickly resume the identity of an international cricketer.

Gower answers injury crisis

From Alan Lee

DAVID GOWER'S recruitment to the tour, for which he was so controversially discarded, was only one aspect of a dramatic day for England, as they returned to the land of holiday-makers with the expressions of highly-stressed businessmen.

With Wayne Larkins, Alec Stewart and David Capel all reporting hand injuries after the drawn third Test, the team manager, Micki Stewart, admitted that their initial problem was "simply finding 11 fit men" to play against Barbados today.

Stewart senior was also determined that Jack Russell should have his first rest of the tour and, with Stewart junior unfit to keep wicket, it was even mooted that England should turn back the clock and call upon David Bairstow, who is on Barbados playing in Yorkshire's pre-season prac-

tice matches. Much more likely, however, is that Robert Bailey will keep wicket, as he has done in emergencies for Northamptonshire.

The opening problem was always likely to confront England, once their selectors had taken the extraordinary decision to bring only two specialists on the trip. David Smith, of Sussex, a left-hander and renowned player of fast bowling, is one opener; Mark Benson being another, who might profitably have been included. Yesterday, Smith was twice contacted by manager Stewart before being named as Gower's replacement for Gower.

Their first choice was Michael Atherton, who played two Tests last summer and has been in prolific form for the England A team in Zimbabwe. A routine phone call to Harare brought news that Atherton

has a deep-seated groin injury and would not be fit in time to play in the Barbados Test.

One man who will play in today's match is Nasser Hussain, whose injured wrist has kept him out of action for three weeks. Hussain is still not fully recovered and, according to Stewart, will bat in some pain. It is felt, however, that he has to play now to establish his fitness for the rest of the tour; if he fails, England will be seeking another replacement, which is where Gower comes in.

Stewart and Gower did not always see eye to eye when cast together as manager and captain. A rapid reconciliation here seemed improbable, but, as Stewart explained: "We are coping with a situation that has cropped up in the past 24 hours. At the moment, we are looking no further than the Barbados game for David, and that is in fairness to him."

Football Trust must budget for new arenas

By John Goodbody

The Government has told the Football Trust that it wants the estimated £100 million for the upgrading of stadiums to be spent on new grounds and stands and not in the refurbishment of crumbling terraces.

Although the Government still wants smaller clubs to benefit, it is inevitable that the first and second division clubs will take the bulk of the money because they must have all-seater stadiums by 1995 and because they have more capital to put towards the joint financing of new stands.

The Football Trust, which has also pledged to provide a further £70 million to the game to help meet the cost of ground improvements over the next 10 years, will only give a percentage towards the cost of new facilities and the clubs will have to find the remaining finance.

The treasury is to monitor the funding, which will be carried out by the Licensing Authority Liaison Committee under the Football Trust. There will be scrupulous auditing by the Government because of the importance of public accountability.

In the budget, the Chancellor of the Exchequer John Major cut the tax on football pools by 2.5 per cent over the next five years. The money will help international venues in the United Kingdom upgrade their stadiums, making them all-seater.

The improvements—in line with the recommendation of Lord Justice Taylor's Report following the Hillsborough disaster in which 95 people

died last April—are expected to cost more than £200 million. The Government wants the money to be spent on major facilities and it is not interested in projects like simply putting seats on terraces. By the year 2000, Lord Justice Taylor recommended that all grounds should be all-seater.

The Trust, which receives £10 million a year from Sport England, will have to find the money. The Trust, which receives £10 million a year from Sport England, will have to find the money. The Trust, which receives £10 million a year from Sport England, will have to find the money.

Clubs, which already have plans to erect new stands or move to new locations, will have an advantage when the money, approximately £337,000 a week, starts to become available hopefully next week.

Ted Croker, the former secretary of the Football Association, said yesterday that one had to face the reality that planning applications for stadiums in new locations could "founder along for years" with local authorities. He told *The Times* that the money should be spent on upgrading older stadiums unless there was co-operation, as in the case of Southampton, with their local authority.

Croker, who is earlier addressing a seminar "Sports Stadiums after Hillsborough", jointly organized by the Sports Council and the Royal Institute of British Architects Services, said that objections for new stadiums also came from residents.

Silverstone plans are accelerating

By John Blunsden

The British Grand Prix on July 15 will be the last race on the Silverstone circuit in its familiar form. On August 1, work will begin on the first of three phases of an imaginative development programme, which will transform the circuit into one of the most testing challenges for technology and the drivers on the Grand Prix calendar.

The extensive circuit modifications, which involve the complete restructuring of the Maggotts, Becketts and Chapel complex, the tightening of the Stowe and Club corners, which will be linked by a new section called The Vale, and the introduction of a five-corner extension before the famous Woodcote corner will extend the circuit from 2.9 to 3.2 miles.

The £2 million programme, which was announced yesterday by Tom Walkinshaw, the Silverstone chairman, and has been welcomed by Bernie Ecclestone, the FIA vice-president, as just what was needed to fulfill the safety and spectator requirements of Formula One circuits for the years ahead, will be completed by May 1991, enabling the new track to be used for a combined Formula 3000 and World Sports Prototype Championship meeting that month.

"Formula One car technology has advanced so much that Silverstone was becoming less of a technical challenge," Walkinshaw said yesterday before he flew off to Atlanta, Georgia, where his Jaguar team is racing this weekend. "Also, some of the corners have become so fast that even

the world's best drivers occasionally come unstuck, so we decided to do something radical in the way of alterations." The changes clearly influenced FIA's decision to grant Silverstone a licence for the British Grand Prix for five years after the existing contract ends in 1991.

"In designing the changes we have had the interest of spectators very much in mind," Walkinshaw said. "In particular, those who cannot afford the price of a grandstand seat. We will be building concrete spectator terraces higher than ever, using the soil removed from the new sections of the circuit between Stowe and Club and in the area of the new Bridge, Priory, Brooklands and Luffield corners. We want our customers to be able to have sight of four or five corners, wherever they choose to stand."

The Vale, the undulating section linking the Stowe and Club corners, will also form part of the South circuit, which Silverstone introduced last year primarily for testing and tuition purposes, and will form the first phase of the new development. It will be followed in October by the modifications to the Becketts area, and finally with the new complex, before Woodcote, which will also form part of the Club circuit, and will be constructed during next winter.

Good news for spectators is that admission prices in the foreseeable future are expected to rise only in line with inflation, while of the two proposals for a much-needed Silverstone bypass, the one routed to the south of the village is now gaining popularity. If it is approved by the local authorities, the plan is to have a spur road exit straight into the circuit.

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A WORLD OF DIFFERENCE.

Davis gains the upper hand in relaxed style

STEVE DAVIS is determined to enjoy the last tournament before "the onslaught" of the world championship next month and was certainly in a more relaxed mood than of late as he overcame Willie Thorne 5-3 in a match of high class to reach tomorrow's Benson and Hedges Irish Master semi-finals at Goffs, County Kildare, last night (Steve Acton writes).

Thorne had failed to beat the world champion in their last seven meetings at important tournaments and failed once more by missing key balls at vital times and despite the fact that he out-

scored the world No. 1 in the break-building department, having made contributions of 64, 42, 99, 36, 66, 51, 36 and 30, but ultimately to no avail.

Davis missed the chance of a maximum 147 break, worth £20,000, in the third frame when, after potting 13 reds, his thirteenth black caught the far knuckle of the pocket. But Thorne remained a threat until, attempting to recover from 56 points behind in the sixth frame, he cleared to blue and then managed to sink the cue ball off the pink.

RESULTS: First round: J. White (Eng) bt J. Johnson (Eng) 5-4; G. Murphy (Eng) bt S. Jones (Eng) 5-4; W. Thorne (Eng) bt S. Pinner (Eng) 5-3; S. Davis (Eng) bt S. Carter (Eng) 5-3; S. Duggan (Eng) bt S. Higgins (Eng) 5-3; S. Hendry (Eng) bt S. Bevan (Eng) 5-3; S. Lee (Eng) bt S. Taylor (Eng) 5-3; S. O'Neill (Eng) bt S. Gould (Eng) 5-3; S. Vane (Eng) bt S. Birchall (Eng) 5-3; S. Williams (Eng) bt S. Jackson (Eng) 5-3; S. Ford (Eng) bt S. Nott (Eng) 5-3; S. Baines (Eng) bt S. Doolittle (Eng) 5-3; S. Black (Eng) bt S. Bell (Eng) 5-3; S. Brown (Eng) bt S. Carter (Eng) 5-3; S. Evans (Eng) bt S. Ford (Eng) 5-3; S. Gale (Eng) bt S. Hendry (Eng) 5-3; S. Higgins (Eng) bt S. Jones (Eng) 5-3; S. Jackson (Eng) bt S. Lee (Eng) 5-3; S. Johnson (Eng) bt S. Murphy (Eng) 5-3; S. Jones (Eng) bt S. O'Neill (Eng) 5-3; S. Lee (Eng) bt S. Taylor (Eng) 5-3; S. O'Neill (Eng) bt S. Gould (Eng) 5-3; S. Vane (Eng) bt S. Birchall (Eng) 5-3; S. Williams (Eng) bt S. Jackson (Eng) 5-3; S. Ford (Eng) bt S. 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Jones (Eng) 5-3; S. Jackson (Eng) bt S. Lee (Eng) 5-3; S. Johnson (Eng) bt S. Murphy (Eng) 5-3; S. Jones (Eng) bt S. O'Neill (Eng) 5-3; S. Lee (Eng) bt S. Taylor (Eng) 5-3; S. O'Neill (Eng) bt S. Gould (Eng) 5-3; S. Vane (Eng) bt S. Birchall (Eng) 5-3; S. Williams (Eng) bt S. Jackson (Eng) 5-3; S. Ford (Eng) bt S. Nott (Eng) 5-3; S. Baines (Eng) bt S. Doolittle (Eng) 5-3; S. Black (Eng) bt S. Bell (Eng) 5-3; S. Brown (Eng) bt S. Carter (Eng) 5-3; S. Evans (Eng) bt S. Ford (Eng) 5-3; S. Gale (Eng) bt S. Hendry (Eng) 5-3; S. Higgins (Eng) bt S. Jones (Eng) 5-3; S. Jackson (Eng) bt S. Lee (Eng) 5-3; S. Johnson (Eng) bt S. Murphy (Eng) 5-3; S. Jones (Eng) bt S. O'Neill (Eng) 5-3; S. Lee (Eng) bt S. Taylor (Eng) 5-3; S. O'Neill (Eng) bt S. Gould (Eng) 5-3; S. Vane (Eng) bt S. Birchall (Eng) 5-3; S. Williams (Eng) bt S. Jackson (Eng) 5-3; S. Ford (Eng) bt S. Nott (Eng) 5-3; S. Baines (Eng) bt S. Doolittle (Eng) 5-3; S. Black (Eng) bt S. Bell (Eng) 5-3; S. Brown (Eng) bt S. Carter (Eng) 5-3; S. Evans (Eng) bt S. Ford (Eng) 5-3; S. Gale (Eng) bt S. Hendry (Eng) 5-3; S. Higgins (Eng) bt S. Jones (Eng) 5-3; S. Jackson (Eng) bt S. Lee (Eng) 5-3; S. Johnson (Eng) bt S. Murphy (Eng) 5-3; S. Jones (Eng) bt S. O'Neill (Eng) 5-3; S. Lee (Eng) bt S. Taylor (Eng) 5-3; S. O'Neill (Eng) bt S. Gould (Eng) 5-3; S. Vane (Eng) bt S. Birchall (Eng) 5-3; S. Williams (Eng) bt S. Jackson (Eng) 5-3; S. Ford (Eng) bt S. Nott (Eng) 5-3; S. Baines (Eng) bt S. Doolittle (Eng) 5-3; S. Black (Eng) bt S. Bell (Eng) 5-3; S. Brown (Eng) bt S. Carter (Eng) 5-3; S. Evans (Eng) bt S. Ford (Eng) 5-3; S. Gale (Eng) bt S. Hendry (Eng) 5-3; S. Higgins (Eng) bt S. Jones (Eng) 5-3; S. Jackson (Eng) bt S. Lee (Eng) 5-3; S. Johnson (Eng) bt S. Murphy (Eng) 5-3; S. Jones (Eng) bt S. O'Neill (Eng) 5-3; S. Lee (Eng) bt S. Taylor (Eng) 5-3; S. O'Neill (Eng) bt S. Gould (Eng) 5-3; S. Vane (Eng) bt S. Birchall (Eng) 5-3; S. Williams (Eng) bt S. Jackson (Eng) 5-3; S. Ford (Eng) bt S. Nott (Eng) 5-3; S. Baines (Eng) bt S. Doolittle (Eng) 5-3; S. Black (Eng) bt S. Bell (Eng) 5-3; S. Brown (Eng) bt S. Carter (Eng) 5-3; S. Evans (Eng) bt S. Ford (Eng) 5-3; S. Gale (Eng) bt S. Hendry (Eng) 5-3; S. Higgins (Eng) bt S. Jones (Eng) 5-3; S. Jackson (Eng) bt S. Lee (Eng) 5-3; S. Johnson (Eng) bt S. Murphy (Eng) 5-3; S. Jones (Eng) bt S. O'Neill (Eng) 5-3; S. Lee (Eng) bt S. Taylor (Eng) 5-3; S. O'Neill (Eng) bt S. Gould (Eng) 5-3; S. Vane (Eng) bt S. Birchall (Eng) 5-3; S. Williams (Eng) bt S. Jackson (Eng) 5-3; S. Ford (Eng) bt S. Nott (Eng) 5-3; S. Baines (Eng) bt S. Doolittle (Eng) 5-3; S. Black (Eng) bt S. Bell (Eng) 5-3; S. Brown (Eng) bt S. Carter (Eng) 5-3; S. Evans (Eng) bt S. Ford (Eng) 5-3; S. Gale (Eng) bt S. Hendry (Eng) 5-3; S. Higgins (Eng) bt S. Jones (Eng) 5-3; S. Jackson (Eng) bt S. Lee (Eng) 5-3; S. Johnson (Eng) bt S. Murphy (Eng) 5-3; S. Jones (Eng) bt S. O'Neill (Eng) 5-3; S. Lee (Eng) bt S. Taylor (Eng) 5-3; S. O'Neill (Eng) bt S. Gould (Eng) 5-3; S. Vane (Eng) bt S. Birchall (Eng) 5-3; S. Williams (Eng) bt S. Jackson (Eng) 5-3; S. Ford (Eng) bt S. Nott (Eng) 5-3; S. Baines (Eng) bt S. Doolittle (Eng) 5-3; S. Black (Eng) bt S. Bell (Eng) 5-3; S. Brown (Eng) bt S. Carter (Eng) 5-3; S. Evans (Eng) bt S. Ford (Eng) 5-3; S. Gale (Eng) bt S. Hendry (Eng) 5-3; S. Higgins (Eng) bt S. Jones (Eng) 5-3; S. Jackson (Eng) bt S. Lee (Eng) 5-3; S. Johnson (Eng) bt S. Murphy (Eng) 5-3; S. Jones (Eng) bt S. O'Neill (Eng) 5-3; S. Lee (Eng) bt S. Taylor (Eng) 5-3; S. O'Neill (Eng) bt S. Gould (Eng) 5-3; S. Vane (Eng) bt S. Birchall (Eng) 5-3; S. Williams (Eng) bt S. Jackson (Eng) 5-3; S. Ford (Eng) bt S. Nott (Eng) 5-3; S. Baines (Eng) bt S. Doolittle (Eng) 5-3; S. Black (Eng) bt S.